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Arab-Israeli Talks

Jordan's al-Tarawinah Comments on Moscow Meeting

JN0907090393 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Jul 93 p 1

[Salam Musafir report from Moscow]

[Text] Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, the Jordanian ambassador to the United States and head of the Jordanian delegation to the Supervisory Committee, which concluded a meeting in Moscow the day before yesterday, has told AL-RA'Y that the Arab delegations participating in the meeting emphasized the unchanging Arab principles in the peace process, as they have always done in previous meetings.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y, al-Tarawinah said: "The Jordanian delegation expressed reservations about holding a meeting of the Refugee Committee, one of the committees of the multilateral talks, in Tunisia by the end of this year. Our reservations about holding the meeting in an Arab capital are based on the premise that all the Arab countries are concerned with the Arab-Israeli struggle and are thus parties to the struggle. We preferred that this meeting and another meeting to be hosted by Egypt, be held in a neutral state. However, the participating Arab states did not present any proposals to the contrary. The Jordanian delegation stressed its reservations about the meeting and drew the attention of the Arab brothers to previous similar instances."

Al-Tarawinah pointed out that the Arab delegations that participated in the Madrid conference nearly two years ago are continuing their coordination approach in all rounds and on all levels. He said:

"Concerning the Jordanian track, our delegation has always stressed the need for a comprehensive solution. We have emphasized this during the previous meetings, as well as at the last meeting. It has always stressed the Palestinian people's legitimate rights based on international resolutions, especially 242 and 338. His Majesty King Husayn emphasized this principle at the highest levels during his visit to the United States. I believe that after his majesty's visit, U.S. circles have a better understanding of Jordan's position, both on the peace process and on its relations with the sisterly Arab states, affirming that we extend our hands to everybody but do not accept preconditions."

Saying that the the peace march in the Middle East is long and arduous, al-Tarawinah said: "The Israeli maneuvers aimed at hindering the progress of the negotiations are in fact intended to exhaust the patience of the Arab negotiators and force them to leave the negotiating table. However, the Arab sides are well aware of this and are armed with patience, coordination, and the constant Arab principles that have not been conceded through the phases of the bilateral or multilateral negotiations. I believe that the Israeli side has now realized this fact with complete clarity."

Al-Tarawinah expressed the hope that Russia, as a cosponsor of the peace conference, will play an effective role in the peace process and said: "During this round and the previous rounds, we felt the strong interest of the Russian cosponsor, and we hope that the conditions in Russia and its international position will not affect its effective role in ending the Middle East struggle."

Inter-Arab Affairs

Information Ministers Hold Conference in Cairo

Iraqi Minister Arrives

NC0607162993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1612 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jul (MENA)—Iraqi Minister of Culture and Information Hamid Yusuf Hammadi arrived in Cairo this afternoon to take part in the works of the Arab information ministers conference, which will open here tomorrow.

The Iraqi minister was received at the airport by Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League, and a number of officials from the Ministry of Information.

Sudanese, Mauritanian Ministers Arrive

NC0707081593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] The 26th session of the Arab Information Ministers Council opens at the Arab League General Secretariat headquarters this morning. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif will lead Egypt's delegation.

The Sudanese and Mauritanian information ministers arrived in Cairo this morning to attend the two days of meetings.

Session Opens

NC0707104293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] The 26th session of the Arab Information Ministers Council opened at the Arab League General Secretariat headquarters this morning. United Arab Emirates Information Minister Khalfan al-Rumi is chairing the session and Information Minister Safwat al- Sharif is heading the Egyptian delegation.

Over two days the council will discuss several issues for joint Arab media action, primarily the concept of Arab media, to keep pace with international change.

Iraqi Minister Speaks

JN0807123693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2007 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 7 Jul (INA)—The Arab Information Ministers Council discussed in today's session the manifestation of terrorism and extremism that the standing commitee on Arab media listed on the agenda.

The INA correspondent in Cairo reports that Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi made some remarks on the topic at the meeting.

Hammadi said: While we respect and appreciate the efforts of the information experts committee in the preparation of the report titled "The Arab Media's Role Toward the Manifestation of Terrorism and Extremism" we believe the method the report mentions for tackling this problem does not deal with the essence of the problem or its manifestation. Consequently, the approach to this problem will not serve the objective of enlightenment and discernment the committee seeks to attain.

This alien manifestation to Arab society the committee speaks about, certainly, is a collective and not an individual manifestation.

The minister added: The committee members did well when they referred to the following in their report:

The study of the manifestation of terrorism cannot be made in isolation from the current local, Arab, and international social, economic, and political circumstances and the attempts by some foreign parties to impose their hegemony on some people and regions, foremost being the Zionist Movement which was founded on racism, religious fundamentalism, and the exercise of all forms of terrorism.

Therefore, since this organized collective manifestation has flourished and continues to grow under local, Arab, and international social, economic, and political circumstances, we have to describe and analyze these circumstances to reach what lies behind what we see in the open and to reach the roots, and specify how they developed and spread, and what circumstances have encouraged them to spread. [passage omitted]

The protection of the younger generation against falling into the pitfall of terrorism and extremism and moral degeneration does not take place through a television seminar, a research paper, or an article. It requires the special long-term education of the younger generation based on a solid foundation of religious knowledge. This should be carried out in accordance with curricula formulated by education specialists who use modern teaching methods and special books to explain the holy Koran, simplify its expressions and glorious principles to the young generation, and who use television and radio for this purpose. Nothing gives men or women more immunity than their sound assimilation of the meanings of the holy Koran. It is the constitution that refines spirits and prevents deviations or corruptions. It also prevents any injustice being done to people and their rights.

The culture and information minister said: Mr. President, allow me to say that we in Iraq have adopted this method following a detailed scientific field study that was supervised by education specialists.

Curricula, books, and explanatory handbooks have been adopted to implement this informational education plan in all elementary, intermediate, and preparatory schools throughout Iraq as of the next scholastic year beginning in September 1993. This will affect six million students.

We allocated 105 million dinars to cover local expenses in terms of additional teachers and other educational requirements. We also need the sum of $10 million to import paper and printing material to print books explaining the Koran, handbooks, and the material needed for educational television. We sought the assistance of the Arab League secretary general who contacted the UN Security president to have him ask the UN Sanctions Committee to release $10 million of the Iraqi funds that are frozen in some Arab and Islamic countries. We are still awaiting the commitee's decision on this issue.

The minister said: We would be grateful if this Arab Information Ministers Council meeting would adopt Iraq's request to the UN Sanctions Committee for the release of $10 million to print the holy Koran and the handbooks for the students of elementary, intermediate, and preparatory schools who number around 6 million students. If the UN Sanctions Committee rejects the request, we will proceed with our project even if it is not complete, and we will complete it later.

The minister said: Allow me to say—based on the premise of Arab and Islamic brotherhood—that I hope my brothers the Arab information ministers will adopt this Iraqi request before the committee and support the letter Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid sent to the UN Security president on the topic. If this committee rejects our request, we hope that history will hold the UN committee alone and no other party responsible for such a disgrace.

Several Arab delegations paid heed to the Iraqi request and called for adopting it as one of the Arab Information Ministers Council recommendations.

Council Adopts Resolutions

NC0807212093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1822 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—United Arab Emirates [UAE] Information Minister Khalfan al-Rumi, chairman of the 26th session of the Arab Information Ministers Council, has announced that the information ministers have adopted a number of resolutions on a clear Arab concept of media goals in the current stage of

development of Arab media activity, and plan to provide the necessary means to help the media perform their roles.

At a news conference following the closing session of the Arab information ministers conference this evening, al-Rumi said that this two-day session was characterized by two positive features. The discussions were serious and profound and there was eagerness to assert the need to help Arab media activity to perform its pan-Arab role, especially in these circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing and in support of its primary cause—liberating the occupied territories and establishing peace on the basis of international legitimacy resolutions. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the council's resolutions, he said the most important of these is the consolidation of Arab media activity to support the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories and media efforts in support of southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The council endorsed the media committee's report on the optimum use of the Arab satellite network for information, culture, and development and the adoption of practical measures to implement the resolution passed by the Arab Information Ministers Council and the Communications Ministers Council in this respect. [passage omitted]

The council also endorsed a media strategy to confront the phenomenon of terrorism and extremism no matter what their motives, whether ideological, social, or ethnic—because it is a departure from the substance of religion and poses danger to stability and development. It was decided that this topic will remain a permanent item on the agenda for as long as this phenomenon persists. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question by MENA on terrorism in the Arab world and the media's role in confronting it, al-Rumi said: This phenomenon is alien to our Arab societies, traditions, and habits. It also contradicts the tolerant Islamic religion.

He added that this phenomenon witnessed by some parts of the Arab world hampers development and progress and he called for the measures needed to eliminate it. He asserted that the Arab media realize terrorism's dangers and dimensions and know the way to end it, noting that there are numerous media means to achieve this goal.

He said the council asked the standing committee of Arab media to devise a specific strategy to deal with terrorism and that the committee is considered in permanent session for as long as terrorism exists.

He added that the committee can seek help from all ulema, professors, and experts to devise practical measures to implement this strategy. He pointed out that the Arab information ministers unanimously endorsed a resolution to fight terrorism and that no one had any reservations on the resolution.

On the satellite network in the Arab world and its utilization by the Arab countries, al-Rumi expressed his hope for a single Arab satellite channel to convey the true image of the civilized Arab man to foreign media so that we can set an example for others and change the current image of the Arab Muslim man abroad as a result of some erroneous behavior by people in the Arab world.

On the Arab media's role in clearing the Arab air, he said all Arab parties have a desire to restore solidarity and correct the Arab course of action. He added that the media code of honor emphasizes the need to unify the Arab fold and that the media should not work to increase inter-Arab differences.

Answering a question on the Arab promotion fund, al-Rumi said $ 3 million has been designated to support this fund to confront some foreign media's efforts to tarnish the Arab's image abroad.

On the closure of some Arab League media offices abroad, he said the Arab League made this decision because of specific circumstances.

Conference Ends

NC0807204793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1716 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—The Arab Information Ministers Council ended its two-day meetings at the Arab League General Secretariat headquarters this evening.

United Arab Emirates Information Minister Khalfan al-Rumi, who is the chairman of the council's current session, praised the atmosphere of the meetings. He said that the similar views of the ministers and delegation heads who participated in the meetings contributed to the success of the conference and to the resolutions and recommendations issued in support of the joint Arab media process.

He expressed his hope that the conference's resolutions and recommendations would be implemented to further cooperation and progress in the Arab homeland.

He thanked Egypt, its President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and its hospitable people for sponsoring the conference in Cairo.

He also thanked Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the League's assistant secretaries general, and the chairman of the standing media committee for their constructive cooperation.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who leads Egypt's delegation to the conference, addressed the closing session, conveying President Mubarak's greetings to the ministers and delegation heads taking part in the conference.

He said President Mubarak this morning asked him to convey his greetings from Syria to the Arab information

ministers and added that Mubarak was scheduled to receive them today, but his presence in Syria to meet President Hafiz al-Asad disrupted this meeting. Al-Sharif also conveyed President Mubarak's greetings to his brothers, Arab leaders, presidents, and kings.

Al-Sharif thanked the conferees for choosing Amin Basyuni to chair the standing media committee for the next two years.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi: Document Will Not Be Discussed With U.S.

TA0807184193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] The U.S. peace team headed by Dennis Ross will meet with the members of the Palestinian delegation tomorrow afternoon and Saturday [10 July]. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation, said that in the meeting the Palestinians would not discuss the declaration of principles submitted to them at the end of the 10th round of talks. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

[Begin recording] [Amir] The U.S. peace team will meet the heads of the Palestinian delegation at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem tomorrow afternoon. Another meeting is scheduled for Saturday. This meeting will apparently be attended by Edward Djerejian, the incoming U.S. ambassador to Israel.

According to Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the Palestinians will not discuss the document of principles, which they have rejected:

['Ashrawi, in English] We are not going to deal with the draft at all. What we are going to do is discuss issues only, and heaven knows there are enough issues that need to be clarified and that need to be discussed. First and foremost among them is the issue of territorial jurisdiction, and that is not to say the exercise of sovereignty, but territorial jurisdiction, and Jerusalem within that geographic definition. And both these issues have to be dealt with within the terms of reference—the goal and the terms of reference of the negotiations.

[Amir translates the above and continues] Dr. 'Ashrawi also noted that more meetings are possible with the U.S. team after it returns from its shuttle mission in our region. According to 'Ashrawi, Israel and the United States must make their positions more flexible in order to make room for more useful negotiations in the upcoming peace talks. 'Ashrawi remarked that she and her colleagues will also discuss with the U.S. team the nature of the relations between the United States and the Palestinians. [end recording]

[A similar report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1700 GMT on 8 July carries a recorded passage in which 'Ashrawi says: "No, we are not really using the American draft as a basis for discussions or for further negotiations. We have certain serious issues to discuss; they are substantive issues. Well, the American draft starts with a very prejudicial position, because it has adopted in substance the Israeli position, particularly on Jerusalem and on territorial jurisdiction, and we feel that these two issues have to be cleared up and explained carefully, because if they want to have a role in bridging ideas, they cannot start by adopting the position of one side and not the other. So if they are willing to change their formulation and to deal with the basic differences between us and the Israelis, then it seems to me they should start from a real middle ground, not from dealing with the Israeli side only."]

PLO Official Urges Altering Basis of Negotiations

TA0807150093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Jul 93 pp 1, 14

[Text] Ramallah—Taysir Khalid, member of the PLO Executive Committee and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine politburo member, has condemned the statements and positions emanating from some Arab officials in which they claim that the plan presented by the U.S. State Department to the Palestinian and Israeli delegations in the 10th round of negotiations contains positive points and forms a good basis for subsequent steps.

Khalid called on those officials to refrain from appointing themselves the Palestinian people's guardians, especially after the PLO rejected the U.S. paper and affirmed its unwillingness to deal with it.

Khalid added that the U.S. paper does not contain a single positive sign because it adopts the Israeli position in part and parcel, disavows international legitimacy's resolutions, including Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and ignores the issues of Jerusalem, the settlements, settlement activities, and Palestinian human rights under occupation, which are guaranteed by the fourth Geneva convention of 1949. In addition, the paper recognizes Israel's right to demand sovereignty over Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip in the final status arrangements.

Khalid said that the U.S. document recognizes Israel's responsibility for the security of its nationals as well as for the overall security of the occupied territories throughout the transitional stage. For these reasons, the PLO Executive Committee announced its rejection of the U.S. paper.

Khalid added: We expect from those Arab officials to declare their solidarity with this Palestinian stance, whether in their meetings with the Israeli foreign minister or in their upcoming meetings with the U.S. State Department delegation, which is slated to begin its visit to the region on 8 July.

Khalid called on the Palestinian team that is steering the negotiating process to thwart attempts aimed at polishing the ugly face of the U.S. paper. Khalid renewed his demand to suspend participation in the Washington talks and his call for a comprehensive national dialogue that renews the PLO's commitment to the resolutions of the Palestine National Council's 20th session, so that the negotiating process would be established on the basis of implementing international legitimacy's resolutions, including Resolution 242, in return for peace arrangements.

Khalid urged adherence to a single negotiating stance after it became clear that the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government were trying to perpetuate Israeli occupation of the occupied territories by imposing their new conditions and dictates, defined in the U.S. paper, for the transitional stage arrangements.

Fatah Leader Urges Swiss-Style Canton Solution

NC0807123993 Paris AFP in English 1132 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 8 (AFP)—A veteran Palestinian leader has urged a Swiss-style canton solution to the conflict with Israel, saying any settlement from the current peace negotiations would not rule out war in future.

Khalid al-Hasan, one of the founders of the mainstream Fatah faction of Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasir 'Arafat, said such cantons could include Israel, Jordan and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Jews should know well that the current political settlement will not end wars and (U.N. Security Council) Resolution 242 could lead to an imposed solution, which I call forced stability," al-Hasan told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) weekly magazine AL-SHURUQ.

"Anything that is imposed by force will be a seed that will grow and cause the explosion of conflicts, revolutions and wars."

Resolution 242 envisages trading land for peace. Al-Hasan, foreign affairs chief of the Palestine National Council, the parliament in exile, was asked if he saw a mechanism for Palestinian-Jewish coexistence.

He replied: "Yes. We could create Arab-Jewish cantons similar to the Swiss system or a confederation that includes the people and central governments. For example, we set up a canton in upper Galilee and another in the Arab Galilee (North Israel).... Other cantons could be in Nazareth, Nabulus, and Hebron.... They could also include Jordan."

He added: "It is an integrated system that should be studied scientifically and clearly. In this system, the problem of refugees would be resolved. There will be no problem of a Palestinian or a Jordanian, nor a water problem and there will be no need for an army. The problem of Jerusalem will also be resolved because it will become a canton and the capital of the state at the same time."

'Arafat Receives UK Envoy, Letter on Peace Talks

LD0807181393 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] today received Michael Tait, the British ambassador to Tunisia, who conveyed to him a letter from the British Government concerning the peace negotiations. The meeting, in Tunis, covered the 10th round of the peace negotiations and the American position at these talks, particularly the American paper, which is considered by the Palestinian side as an attempt to change the rules and terms of reference, from which the peace process has proceeded since the Madrid conference, into new rules far removed from the conception arrived at in Madrid. The meeting also covered the need for a move to rescue the peace process from its present impasse, and to give an impulse to this process.

Editor Calls For Changing Rules of Negotiation

TA0807185193 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 8 Jul 93 p 3

[Article by editor in chief Bashir al-Barghuthi: "The Rules of the Game Must Be Changed"]

[Excerpts] The 10th rounded ended just as the previous ones, with a specific difference, namely, the entry of the U.S. sponsor into the arena of negotiations alongside the Israeli negotiator and carrying a plan that this sponsor is trying to get the Palestinians to agree to by every means.

Official U.S. sources have emphasized that the visit by Dennis Ross and his team to the region seeks to continue promoting the U.S. plan despite its rejection by the Palestinian side. However, it is clear from Husni Mubarak's and Shim'on Peres' remarks that the intention leans toward introducing some cosmetic changes in the plan in order to resell it to the PLO with the help of some Arab parties.

Here, it is essential to reassess the Madrid formula in light of the U.S. plan being carried by Ross and that was published in the press before his arrival. This plan has clarified the real U.S. position, which is totally inconsistent with the letter of assurances handed over to the Palestinian side on the eve of the invitation to Madrid. The plan has also revealed an important aspect of the ambiguity that pervaded Bush's statements and, particularly, what he meant by advocating the principle of land for peace. All this was in contrast to the Palestinian side's assumptions, which were based on the letter of assurances and the provisions of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

It should not be assumed from this that participation in the talks was a mistake. Who could have anticipated all

those events—such as the Soviet Union's collapse, the insistence by a large number of Arab states to continue the Gulf War by other means against the PLO and Jordan, and their refusal to rebuild Arab solidarity—to occur after the Madrid Conference? [passage omitted]

We believe that any negotiating step that the Palestinian side takes henceforth on the basis of the existing negotiating conditions and the rules of the U.S. game, manifested in the U.S. draft of the declaration of principles, will be a step toward the Israeli position and away from the Palestinian position.

Therefore, the rules of the game, some of which have fallen and others eroded by distortion, must be changed.

So, why not take the bull by the horns, as the adage says? There is Security Council Resolution 242, which classifies the land as being occupied and calls for withdrawal from it. That land is East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip in the boundaries of 4 June 1967. In order that negotiations, based on Resolution 242, be meaningful, they should focus on the issues of achieving Israeli withdrawal, solving the refugee problem, peaceful relations, and secure borders. This is what Resolution 242 stipulates and whose immediate implementation is called for by Resolution 338. Therefore, one must negotiate on the basis of one stage. It should begin by starting implementation of Resolution 242, and end by completing implementation of all the provisions of this resolution. Otherwise, it will all be a waste of time and merely an ambush. [passage omitted]

Commentary Reviews U.S. Role in Peace Process

LD0807212693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers, after the PLO's announcement of its rejection of the so-called U.S. conciliatory [tawfiqiyah] document, and after Israel having criticized some of its points, the question is on the futility of the next U.S. step, which is the expected visit to the region of a U.S. envoy at a later date.

Warren Christopher has already threatened the possibility of a U.S. retreat from its peace role unless its proposals are accepted by the Palestinian and Israeli sides in the negotiations. This kind of threat is evidence that the U.S. intervention has not satisfied either side, although each has its own reasons for dissatisfaction. [passage omitted]

The threat of the U.S. withdrawal from the talks is due to the fact that its stances have not risen to the level of a full partner; influential and effective, and based on firm political convictions and principles. For most of the time, it has remained a prisoner of its efforts to please the Israeli side which has been accustomed to expect permanent support from the U.S. and has been making every effort to keep Washington in the framework of persistent support for Israel's policies and stances.

Thus, even if we theoretically assumed that the U.S. will try to modify its pro-Israeli policies, it will come to a head again with a wall of opposition and pressures that will be directed at the U.S. Administration from inside the U.S. itself; pressures that had a major role in bringing down former President George Bush and in the election of his successor Bill Clinton. The only hope for change remains in the coordination of Arab stances and insistence on Palestinian rights in the context of the resolutions of international legitimacy that are in force.

Algeria

'Important Government Changes' Expected

JN0807175793

[Editorial Report] Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic carries, in its 1700 GMT newscast on 8 July, a seven-minute interview with Qusayy Salih al-Darwish, its correspondent in Algiers.

At the beginning of the interview, al-Darwish says important government changes will be announced in Algeria "this evening or tomorrow." He adds that Defense Minister Major General Khaled Nezzar is expected to be replaced by retired Major General Lamine Zeroual. Al-Darwish says Army Chief of Staff Abdelmalek Guenaizia will be retired and replaced by Major General Mohamed Ammari.

Al-Darwish says Khaled Nezzar will continue to supervise the Algerian Army in "his new post as a member of the Presidential Council, which will replace the Higher State Council at the end of this year." He adds that "Khaled Nezzar is expected to become the chairman of the Presidential Council, that is, the president of the State of Algeria." He says Khaled Nezzar is still Algeria's "strongman."

Prime Minister Denies Presidential Candidacy

LD0807193293 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Statement released by Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam on 8 July—read by announcer]

[Text] There has been a tendentious information campaign for several months about my alleged candidacy in the forthcoming presidential elections. It suddenly intensified following my speech on 23 June 1993 on the occasion of the symposium on the province of Algiers.

To clarify matters I wish to remind everyone that on 23 June 1993 I made it clear that political ambition is natural for every politician. Therefore, a candidacy in an election cannot be considered a paradox or a defect.

By making this clarification today, I hope to make it clear that I am not a candidate in any possible elections, and I devote myself totally and without any ulterior motive to the task of being prime minister, a task I am shouldering.

Any other interpretation of my speech on 23 June 1993 is a political maneuver, the aim of which is perhaps to divert the genuine dialogue on the major political and socioeconomic options confronting the nation toward a futile debate that is extremely harmful to the interests of the country.

Egypt

Islamic Group: Mubarak 'Digging Own Grave'

NC0907073393 Paris AFP in English 2102 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, July 8 (AFP)—President Husni Mubarak is "digging his own grave" by executing Muslim militants, including seven hanged on Thursday [8 July], the radical al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group [Islamic Group] warned.

The group, which has spearheaded a fundamentalist campaign aimed at overthrowing the secular government, said Mubarak was "providing good reason to kill him" by going ahead with the executions.

The assassination of Mubarak would be a "legal act of justice and vengeance."

Mubarak's predecessor, Anwar al-Sadat, was assassinated by Muslim extremists at a military parade on October 6 1981.

A communique from the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah said Mubarak, who rejected pleas for clemency from the seven and two other militants executed last month, was "digging his own grave."

Those hanged on Thursday were found guilty of plotting to overthrow the government and attacks on tourists that left several people wounded.

The government is trying to crush a fundamentalist campaign that has left around 170 people dead and badly damaged the vital tourist industry.

The latest executions would only harden the al-Jama'ah's determination to "annihilate the regime of collaborators and apostates" and replace it with an Islamic government, the communique said.

It hailed the condemned men for their "sacrifice," saying "your blood will not be spilled in vain but will turn into a curse that will slay Mubarak and his disciples."

Egypt has asked the United States to extradite radical Shaykh Umar 'Abd al-Rahman, spiritual leader of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, Naji al-Ghatrifi, meanwhile said the executions had followed "just and fair trials."

"Innocent children, ordinary citizens and guests of Egypt were victims" of the seven, he said.

No tourists were killed in the attacks carried out by the men executed Thursday. In the most serious incident, six German tourists and two Egyptians were wounded in a gun attack on a bus in Qena in southern Egypt.

The latest executions coincided with an Amnesty International report accusing Egypt of human rights abuses in its battle against the militants.

Case for 'Abd-al-Rahman Extradition Analyzed

PM0807141793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Jul 93 p 11

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid: "'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's Extradition"]

[Text] In prima facie and general terms, the question of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's extradition may fall under the jurisdiction of lawyers since he faces charges in Egypt and he also faces charges in the United States; but as we all know, this case is more political than criminal.

In Egypt there is interest in the extradition of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman so that interrogations can be completed and so that he can be charged and referred to the court hearing the case. The Egyptian need for extradition seems to have and does have legal grounds. There may also be an implicit political aim, namely to punish outlaw groups even if they are Islamic.

As the picture becomes clearer, the extradition of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman appears to have more political logic than importance on security or legal grounds. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman will not be able to increase violence in New York as he faces additional charges by the U.S. authorities, and moving him to prison in Cairo would not guarantee less violence in Egypt. His extradition would be a lesson to all those who believe that they can escape the regime by fleeing Egypt. It would also be a final link in the pursuit of wanted people in Peshawar, Pakistan, and Kabul, Afghanistan, as well as fugitives in Sudan and Europe. If Egypt were to manage to have 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman extradited from the United States, it would be completing the pursuit chain even if it does not weaken the extremist movements.

I believe that 'Abd-al-Rahman's extradition might have symbolic political significance, but it will not fulfill the authorities' hope of containing the political crisis. In fact, his proximity to his supporters might charge their emotions and strengthen the jihad concept which these organizations are trying to impress on their members.

When I asked an Egyptian official why there is this insistence on 'Abd-al-Rahman's extradition when his absence abroad might be the solution suitable to everyone, he said that it is a matter of principle because if you allow a wanted person to escape you open the door for others to do the same. That justification was acceptable before the explosion at the World Trade Center in New York, but after that incident 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman became a person wanted by a greater power, which perhaps needs to pursue and convict him more than Egypt does.

If the Egyptian Government abandons its request for 'Abd-al-Rahman's extradition, it might close his file temporarily. A day might come when 'Abd-al-Rahman would want to go back to his country in reconciliatory circumstances that could end this crisis facing Egypt and the entire Arab region.

If 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman is returned to Egypt against his will and in chains, extremist groups would portray him as a martyr who took a brave stand, forgetting that he did not give himself up but was rather extradited in accordance with an agreement with a foreign power. That is why it might be better for the Egyptian Government to let him just meet his own fate. That method seems to have been proven to be more effective. When Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman thought that he had escaped the consequences of the actions of his followers in Egypt, he discovered that his followers implicated him in New York, his last refuge.

Security Forces Round Up 'Outlaws' in Abu Tij

NC0807194293 Cairo MENA in English 1730 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, July 8 (MENA)—Security forces here today rounded up 31 outlaws, including 15 fugitives with life sentences.

The campaign was launched at dawn today and covered villages in Abu Tij township here.

Mubarak Returns From Visit to Syria

NC0807132293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1128 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak returned home this afternoon after a visit to Syria.

Musa Reacts to G-7 Summit Declaration From Tokyo

NC0907112093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1014 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has welcomed the political declaration of the seven industrial states' summit in Tokyo regarding Bosnia-Herzegovina and the peace process in the Middle East.

In a comment made today, 'Amr Musa said that the declaration's contents regarding the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina "is not bad," in particular the affirmation that the seven countries involved do not approve of what the Serbs and Croats are forcing on the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The insistence of the Serbs and Croats to divide Bosnia by forcing border changes or resorting to ethnic cleansing will place them "beyond the pale of international legitimacy," he said.

In his comment, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa expressed his conviction that the repeated warnings made to the Bosnian Serbs have lost their effect and have failed to deter the aggressor.

He said it would have been more useful if the industrial Tokyo summit declaration had threatened to take specific action to put an end to the ethnic crimes and regional expansion because there is no reason to believe that the imposed sanctions and obscure threats can

succeed, in light of Serbian military superiority and the capabilities they have to break these sanctions and deprive the Bosnian Muslims of practicing their legitimate right of obtaining means to defend themselves.

In his comment, 'Amr Musa praised the Tokyo industrial summit declaration's support for efforts to establish peace in the Middle East, call on Israel to respect its obligations regarding the occupied territories, and endorsement of the efforts to rebuild Lebanon.

In this regard, the foreign minister clarified that it is important for the declaration to conform with the Security Council resolutions on the occupied territories, for this would mean that the signatories of this declaration confirm the status of these territories and the need to take swift action toward achieving a just settlement. Such a settlement should take into consideration the rights and demands of all the parties involved on the basis of the land-for-peace formula and recognition of reciprocal obligations.

Eritrean President Departs Without Meeting Mubarak

NC0807142693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1039 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki left Cairo today for his country. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi saw him off at Cairo Airport.

It is worth noting here that the Eritrean president stopped over last night at Cairo Airport in transit from Geneva to his home country.

'Abdallah Muhammad Adam [name as received], Eritrean charge d'affaires in Cairo, said that while in Geneva, President Afewerki took part in the conference on refugees, during which he appealed to donor countries to give aid to his country's government.

He clarified that the Eritrean president stopped over at Cairo Airport on a transit flight and that there was no plan for him to meet President Husni Mubarak or any other Egyptian official.

Column Lists U.S. Mistakes in Attacking Iraq

NC0807110093 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 4 Jul 93 pp 3-5

[From the "Mere Policy" column by chief editor Salah Muntasir: "The Roar of the Ostriches"]

[Excerpts] I don't believe that there is a single Arab official who has inflicted damage on his nation, humiliated its will, and humbled its fate as much as Saddam Husayn. This weakness and psychological divisions in the Arab nation are the consequences of his big crime. It is not only Kuwait that paid the price because all of us will continue to suffer the consequences and results for years to come.

Even though there is not—so far—any material evidence about Saddam Husayn's involvement in the cowardly crimes of terrorism witnessed by Egypt recently, yet I cannot absolve him of being personally behind them and the instigators, particularly as these crimes have evolved into explosives that contain nails. Investigations have revealed that these nails are different from those in Egyptian markets. Nails in explosives! These ideas only come to the mind of one of the demons of evil and barbarism, such as Saddam Husayn. I don't believe that there is a single Egyptian whose brutality, fierceness, and barbarism can bring him to this level that makes him plant an explosive charge just anywhere and let fate choose its victims. One of his relatives or friends might be among these victims.

There are therefore no reasons to make me defend Saddam Husayn or sympathize with him. I might even be one of those who wishes he would disappear from the Arab map. But as soon as I heard about the missiles that the United States launched against the Iraqi intelligence building in Baghdad on the night of 26 June, my feelings were aroused and I felt humiliated. It seems to be the same feeling as that of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who said: We had hoped that the U.S. Administration would deal with the Bosnia- Herzegovina issue with the same firmness that it is dealing with Iraq. It is clear from U.S. officials' comments on this statement that they have not understood its meaning. They understood that they have to hit the Serbs and Croats with missiles and planes as they did Baghdad. That is why they said that the two issues are different and that it is not true that they have double standards.

What the U.S. officials are saying is erroneous. No one has said that we have asked the Americans to fire their missiles on the Serbs' bases and forces. What we are asking is that they use the same firmness they have used against Saddam when dealing with the Bosnian issue. But it is evident to any eyewitness of history that the U.S. Administration—which is, at present, in sole charge of managing world affairs, has turned a blind eye to these barbaric massacres being perpetrated against the Bosnian people. The U.S. President has not sent any warning or threats to the butchers of these massacres or even a hint of firmness. They have turned a blind eye and left them to commit their evil crimes against humanity and human conscience shamelessly and fearlessly.

Washington cannot claim that the Yugoslav issue is a European one on which it cannot decide its opinion. The United States—by virtue of the international conditions that have made it the only one at the top of the world—permits itself to intervene in Bosnia, if it wants to. It permitted itself to send its forces to Somalia, fire its missiles on Baghdad, and force the world to impose sanctions against Libya. Therefore, they have double standards in dealing with issues. Is it a coincidence that it is the roar of a lion that we hear when they are dealing with the Arab and Islamic countries and the head of an ostrich that they bury in the sand when they deal with the

other issues and other countries, with Israel the foremost among them? [passage omitted]

Has Clinton achieved the objectives of the strike against Iraq? An immediate public opinion poll conducted jointly by THE NEW YORK TIMES and one of the American television networks showed that two-thirds of the Americans expressed support for the president, a very good result for Clinton, whose popularity had sunk to a level never reached by any other U.S. president in the first six months in office.

It is obvious that Clinton's advisers pushed him to launch the attack to save his image at home. Neither Clinton nor his advisers, therefore, cared about the "cosmetic operations" that Bush used to perform on his decisions to lend them legitimacy inside and outside the United States. This is the major difference between the policy of an experienced man like George Bush and that of Bill Clinton. The former managed to plan a major war against Saddam. But more important than the war itself was the political role he played and the extensive contacts held by his secretary of state, James Baker, to legitimize the decision to attack Baghdad on 16 January 1991, a legitimacy that made millions of people around the world accept the attack by such a large number of countries against one country, Iraq.

Contrary to this, Clinton did not care to give the decision to carry out a missile attack against Baghdad full legitimacy. More surprisingly, he informed his main allies—Major of Britain and Mitterrand of France—of his decision only a few hours before ordering the attack, and he invited a Security Council meeting only after, not before, the strike.

Those who contemplate the date of the strike can notice that there was no need for hiding it, and that it was possible to discuss it in advance. The target of the attack was a surprise. There were certainly many targets to choose from, but Clinton opted for the one that is least damaging for Saddam Husayn himself. The attack was carried out at midnight so that employees and intelligence experts, including agency chief Sabir al-Duri, would not be in the building. This prompted William Safire, a prominent U.S. writer, to say sarcastically: "It appears that Clinton's policy has become: Try to attack an American president and we will demolish one of your houses!"

In the sound assessment of the Baghdad bombing, it can be said that Clinton succeeded in beautifying his image at home as a strong president capable of making decisions. He also managed to send a "message" to those who support terrorism, telling them that he can deal blows against them. One of his senior advisers was quoted as saying: We regret that CNN was unable to show a live relay of the strike against Baghdad so that the Iranians, the Sudanese, and others could see!

But in return for this success—if there was a success—Clinton gave Saddam Husayn a new chance to win the support of his people. Saddam invested on the victims of the American attack, turning their funeral into a popular demonstration of support. This is natural and it happens all over the world when peoples face what the Iraqi people have faced. Thus, the American attack was a boost for Clinton at home, and for Saddam in Iraq.

These are not all President Clinton's mistakes. Among his other blunders is that the missile attack took place before the Kuwaiti court finished the trial of the defendants and handed down its verdict. If the operation had any legal basis, it would have been legally appropriate to wait until the court had passed its verdict so the United States would not place the court in an embarrassing position, indicting the defendants, deciding that they participated in a plot, and thus punishing the masterminds.

We would like to ask why, if the U.S. Administration is really serious about punishing Saddam Husayn, it did not deal a blow directly at him? Everyone knows that Saddam Husayn is a tyrant executioner who rules his country with steel and fire. Such operations have proved that they do not weaken him but enhance his popularity in Iraq. Moreover, the Americans admitted that he has succeeded in rebuilding 80 percent of his military power in the past two years, despite the blockade and sanctions. So if Washington is really serious about punishing him, why does it not strike at him personally? It is strange that in their comments U.S. officials note that President Clinton, in the options offered to him, ruled out striking at Saddam Husayn. It is even more odd that he refused to do that out of fear of the consequences of Saddam's disappearance to Iraq's future and disintegration among Kurds, Shiites, and Sunnis and the adverse effects on U.S. allies—Turkey and Saudi Arabia—and positive effects on Iran and its designs.

If this explanation is correct, it means that Saddam Husayn will remain one of the most awesome rulers of the world because his existence is indispensable despite the crimes that he has committed and is committing against his people and nation. The real meaning of this explanation, if it is correct, is that the United States is primarily concerned about Saddam's survival. What if a coup should depose him, and if this is not possible, what if he died a natural death? This is the absurd approach in U.S. policy. The only explanation for it is America's gratitude to Saddam and desire to reward him at the expense of his poor people. Saddam should be thanked because he enabled U.S. forces to enter the region and establish bases that are capable of firing missiles from remote distances at anyone the White House ruler does not like, regardless of the Security Council and international law. This is our new source of torment, thanks to Saddam and the policy of ignoring a problem threatening the Arabs and Muslims, a problem that arises every time they make a small mistake.

Morocco

King Hassan on Elections, Meeting With Saharans

LD0907081393 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2140 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Speech to the nation by King Hassan on the occasion of Youth Day from the Royal Palace in Rabat—live]

[Excerpts] Thanks be to God. Prayers and peace be on our Lord, the Messenger of God, his kinfolk, and companions.

Dear people: It is my custom to address you on such a day [Youth Day, which coincides with the king's birthday] to congratulate you on your day, Youth Day, wishing you from God to continue to enjoy always the vigor, determination, endurance, and ambition of youth.

We mark this day, dear people, between two events: first, the legislative elections. As I told you, I hoped these elections would be a day of rejoicing. And indeed they were a day of rejoicing for me. Despite what had been written and said, what is always politically important is the outcome. And the outcome, thanks be to God, is positive, clear, and speaks for itself. The elections that were held in our country have enhanced the reputation of Morocco and gave it a new place among nations and a prominent place among peoples.

Thus we must be at the level of this event and at the level of the increased value in Morocco's reputation abroad. What can be learned from these elections, dear people, is that you remain a moderate people. When we see the results, we see that there are two palms with whom it is possible to deal seriously. And there is no doubt that when the time comes and when the election of the final third of parliament is completed, I will draw the lesson from it, and I will carry out my duty, God willing and with God's guidance and your continuing support. I will try to find the optimum means of leading you to progress and struggle. I say progress and struggle, and I did not mention prosperity, because in our age and in this crisis, prosperity cannot be achieved without struggle and progress.

When I say I will select those who will work with me, this does not mean that I exclude this or that side. All will work. Some will work in the executive apparatus, and some will work in the legislative apparatus. The legislative apparatus after the new constitution, as you know dear people, has become of great importance and has acquired maximum responsibility. This team and that team will be called on to shoulder its national duty in your service and in the service of its country. [passage omitted]

Thanks to God, there is political awareness in this country. In this country there is in this country a group of people—a large number of individuals who want to work and work seriously. The international situation, my dear people, can only affect the regional situation, and consequently the situation in Morocco. Those who are meeting now in Tokyo [G-7 summit] are not meeting to put forward positive figures but, unfortunately for them and for the world, to read and analyze the negative figures. [passage omitted]

As regards the second event, my dear people, it is the one awaiting us on 15 July in the capital of our [Western] Sahara, Laayoune. We are expecting this meeting to be one of faithful Muslims, faithful Muslims who draw from God's book and the Sunnah of his prophet, God's prayers and peace be upon him, deep, eternal, and international patriotic lessons, lessons of brotherhood, lessons of reunion, and lessons of mutual help between the faithful. I want this meeting to be one of forgiveness and reconciliation so that we can build a country from north to south, from west to east, a country that enjoys unity, reassurance, and intellectual comfort that will enable it to combine all its forces to avoid looking right or left and instead look, with its head head raised high, forward at its goals, which are the happiness of its citizens, good interaction with its neighbors, and contribution to the firm entrenching of amity and peace at the global level. [passage omitted]

Fifth Round of Talks With Saudis Concludes

LD0907085093 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the fifth round of the Saudi-Moroccan Joint High Committee for Cooperation ended in Rabat. The round was cochaired by Mr. Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, and His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi minister of foreign affairs. The round achieved important results in the field of coordination and economic, technological, cultural and scientific cooperation. [passage omitted]

Mr. Abdellatif Filali praised the positive results produced by the work of the Moroccan-Saudi Joint Committee in its fifth round. He emphasized that this round provided an occasion on which Moroccan-Saudi relations in various fields were reviewed and a number of agreements to strengthen them were issued.

Sudan

Cabinet Reshuffle, Restructuring Announced

EA0807193593 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we have received the following statement from the Presidency. It was announced in the speech delivered during the fourth anniversary of the national salvation revolution that measures will be taken to develop and promote the federal government, that some of these measures concerned the arrangement and scope of the portfolios of the federal government, and that changes would be made in its structure accordingly. In this regard, the state presidency has approved the following decrees:

1. The appointment of a minister in the offices of the federal administration: Under the supervision of the Presidency, he will assume the duties of the deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers and of the relevant organs, oversee the welfare and development of federal government, supervise the development of government activity in the states, and ensure coordination between state governments. To this effect, a minister for the offices of the federal administration has been appointed to support the chairman of the offices in (?managing) the members of the offices.

2. The merger of the Ministries of Commerce and Industry: In light of [word indistinct] the policies of economic liberalization and [word indistinct] export and import measures and [words indistinct] internal trade and supplies [word indistinct] measures of building the federal authority and the tasks of commerce and supply have been transferred to the deputy governors, thereby decreasing the central government's responsibility.

(?In conformity) with this logic, the current decrees have been issued to merge the Ministries of Industry and Commerce. In accordance with this, the new minister will be briefed on the traditional tasks of the Ministry of Industry, in addition to the task of planning foreign trade according to the country's economic policies, laying down internal policies in coordination with the states and tying industrial policies to trade policies in order to strengthen industry and the marketing of Sudanese products. The new name of this ministry is the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

3. The abolition of the Ministries of Guidance and Youth and Sports: This is in line with the federal government's (?policy) of transferring ministerial functions to state governments. It is also within the framework of rearranging responsibilities in the federal government. In accordance with this, the executive tasks of the Ministry of Youth and Sports have been transferred to the relevant state ministries. The responsibility for youth and sports national planning and responsibility for associated foreign relations comes under Social Planning. [Word indistinct] tasks of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Social Planning [word indistinct].

4. The establishment of a Ministry for Peace and Rehabilitation: In light of the continued success of efforts to implement the peace program and [word indistinct] life in the south. The new ministry will lay down plans and programs of development and peace in the war areas and supervise the execution of plans for rehabilitation and development in the peaceful areas.

5. The establishment of a Ministry for Communications and Tourism: Affirming the role of communications in the world today and in order to develop tourism, a specialized ministry has been established for this purpose with the duties of laying down policies and plans for communications and tourism, previously the (?responsibility) of the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Tourism.

6. The establishment of a Ministry for Social Planning—In [word indistinct] the plans of social changes so that the state becomes the guardian of social activity, (?departments) of [word indistinct], Islamic charities, religious affairs, and guidance have been amalgamated in the new ministry with the added task of supervising social affairs such as arrangements for youth, sports, and (?women). This is to arrange its activity and the welfare of its foreign relations [as heard]. The task of [words indistinct] has been combined within it, and it has also been entrusted with the task of supervising relief activity.

The Presidency has issued decrees appointing Major General Ibrahim Nayil Idam minister of communications and tourism;

Dr. 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad minister in the offices of the federal administration;

Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa minister of industry and commerce;

'Abdallah Deng Niyal minister of peace and rehabilitation;

Dr. Ibrahim Ubaydullah [al-Husayn] minister of planning and investment;

'Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha minister of social planning;

Dr. Ibrahim Abu Awf minister of state in the ministry of social planning;

Dr. Kabosho Kuku minister of state in the ministry of social planning;

Professor (?Muhammad Sa'id Harbi) minister of state for agriculture;

Dr. Majdhub al-Khalifah Ahmad minister of state for labor and administrative reform.

Abu-Salih To Meet With Egypt's Musa in 'Mid-July'

NC0807130493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 8 Jul (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih said today he hopes his meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to prepare for the Egyptian-Sudanese summit will be held in Khartoum.

Asked by a MENA correspondent in Khartoum about the arrangements and date for the foreign ministers' meeting, Dr. Abu-Salih said the two sides are engaged in good, serious preparations for this meeting, which is expected to be held in mid-July. He expressed the hope that a final solution to the problems between the two countries will be reached during the meeting. He said there is no sensitivity over the venue of the meeting, noting that contacts are under way in this respect through the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Court President: Bush Plot Trial Unaffected by Politics

PM0807152193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jul 93 pp 1, 4

[Nasir al-Mutayri report: "Kuwaiti State Security Court President Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: U.S. Raid Will Not Affect Trial of Those Accused of Trying to Assassinate Bush"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait—Counselor Salah al-Fahd, president of the Kuwaiti State Security Court [SSC], has stressed that the court, which is currently looking into the attempt to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait, "is not interested in any political decision concerning this case, whether this decision comes from the United States, public opinion, the media, or anyone else." He said that the recent U.S. strike on the headquarters of the Iraqi Intelligence Service "will not affect the decision to be made by the court in this connection."

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT following the session held yesterday to resume the trial of the defendants in the case, al-Fahd said that the court is looking for nothing except the truth. And it is eager to complete all aspects of the investigation and unravel the clues to the incident with all the defendants individually." [no opening quotation marks as published] He also stressed that by interrogating the defendants "the court is looking for evidence of innocence before evidence of conviction."

Al-Fahd said that "the court's conscience prompts it to apply the principles of justice and the stipulations of the law without being influenced by any other background of the case." He stressed the independence of the Kuwaiti judiciary which is known for "impartiality and justice."

Counselor al-Fahd pointed out that the SSC deliberately held its hearings publicly to acquaint world public opinion with the good and impartial way in which the trials are conducted.

Commenting on Amnesty International's report which cast doubt on the fairness of the defendants' trial, SSC Attorney Counselor Muhammad Abu-Salib said that Amnesty International linked the U.S. strike on the headquarters of the intelligence service in Baghdad and the trial of the defendants in the Bush case. He stressed that "the court has nothing to do with any political or military matter between the United States and Iraq." He said that the SSC examines the cases referred to it impartially and independently. He pointed out that the court appointed—at its own expense—a number of lawyers to defend the defendants, in order to achieve justice and fairness for everyone. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Israel Boycott, Iraq, Trial

PM0907081993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jul 93 p 5

[Muhammad al-Dumyan and Nasir al-Mutayri report: "Sabah al-Ahmad: No Pressures on Us To Lift Boycott of Israel"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has denied the existence of any pressures on Kuwait or the Gulf states to lift the economic boycott of Israel.

Following a meeting he held yesterday with the National Assembly committee formed to respond to the government's program, Shaykh Sabah said the the government is in agreement with the Assembly with regard to the foreign policy mentioned in the government's program. He pointed out that the economic boycott of Israel falls into three categories: direct boycott, boycott of companies operating in Israel, and boycott of companies which have links with Israeli companies. It is in Kuwait's interests, he said, to have dealings with and use companies in the third category, especially after liberation, as national interests prompt such a step. Shaykh Sabah stressed the need to differentiate among the three kinds of boycott.

With regard to the negotiations on allowing Iraq to sell its oil and whether this represents a prelude to lifting the economic embargo on it, Shaykh Sabah said that this issue is not new, as the Security Council resolution stipulated that $1.6 billion worth of Iraqi oil can be sold to purchase food and medical supplies under international supervision—which the Iraqi regime rejected. He emphasized that the Iraqi regime's acceptance of the international terms related to the sale of oil is evidence of the effect of the economic embargo imposed on it.

He pointed out that the Kuwaiti prisoners issue should not be linked with the sale of Iraqi oil through the United Nations. The oil sale issue, he said, concerns the Iraqi people, who now know that their real enemy is not outside their borders; their real enemy is their president and present regime.

Asked about Amnesty International's reports in relation to the trial of the terrorist network in Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah said that the Kuwaiti judiciary is just, impartial, free, and not influenced by any political matters. He stressed that the defendants of the terrorist network are getting a fair trial and have been given the opportunity to defend themselves by appointing lawyers for them. Shaykh Sabah emphasized that Kuwait's strength is in its fairness and respect for human rights. [passage omitted]

Red Cross Facilitates Return of 42 People From Iraq

LD0807124193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1214 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 8 Jul (KUNA)—A group of 42 people returned to the country today as the Red Cross facilitated its return from Iraq to Kuwait through the Ar'ar region on the

Saudi border. This group, which is the 22d one crossing the Ar'ar route, consists of 14 women, 2 men and 26 children under 16. No information was given about the identity and the nationality of those who returned. [passage omitted]

'Non-Kuwaiti' Soldier Crosses Border Into Iraq

LD0807110693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1014 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Jul (KUNA)—Kuwaiti military sources confirmed the escape on Monday [5 July] of a "non-Kuwaiti" soldier to Iraq through the borders, pointing out that investigations are under way to ascertain the circumstances of this incident.

The sources, which asked that their identity not be revealed, today informed KUNA that the soldiers who were present at the checkpoints from the Interior and Defense Ministries have been referred for investigation to determine how the escaped soldier managed to cross those points without being questioned in accordance with the current observed procedures. This incident is the first of its kind in which a non-Kuwaiti soldier has managed to escape to Iraq.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN today pointed out that the soldier managed to cross the borders into Iraq in his private car and revealed that he has a wife and children still in Kuwait.

Yemen

Visiting Omani Foreign Minister Holds News Conference

Calls Talks 'Extremely Useful'

JN0807144393 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said he is pleased with the positive results of his visit to the Republic of Yemen. Speaking at a news conference in Sanaa today, his excellency said he was impressed with modern Yemen's accomplishments, such as the general elections, democracy, and national accord. The minister said he was completely satisfied with his talks with Yemeni officials.

At a meeting with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih yesterday, the minister noted, he conveyed a verbal message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id about increasing bilateral ties and joint programs following the signing of the demarcation of the international borders between the two countries. He hoped bilateral ties will develop in the mutual interest of Yemen and Oman.

The minister announced the formation of a joint working team of Foreign Ministry officials from the two countries to compare notes on Arab and world developments. The visit was an opportunity for him to be updated on Yemen's thinking on Arab, Islamic, and world issues. His Majesty Sultan Qabus and his brother President Salih, he added, hold identical views on all Middle East and other developments and share a strategic perspective.

The minister called his talks with Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas and Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah extremely useful and cordial.

Criticizes Iraqi Embargo

JN0807161993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Sanaa, 8 Jul (INA)—Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that continuing the embargo against Iraq and depriving the Iraqi people of medicine does not please or honor Arabs.

At a news conference here today, Bin-'Alawi regretted the Iraqi people's suffering, adding that the embargo has greatly injured this people via recognized international resolutions. He urged the United Nations to work seriously to end the embargo and the daily suffering of the Iraqi people.

Replying to a question by the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Sanaa on the need to break the embargo at the Arab level, Bin-'Alawi said: Our Arab history will not forgive Arabs for failing to support Iraq and its steadfast people, who are suffering from the difficulties and harm caused by this embargo. Every Arab is pained by the fact that the organizations extending humanitarian aid to Iraq are Western and Islamic ones from various regions of the world, while no Arab organization is extending such aid, he said.

Bin-'Alawi stressed the importance of effective Arab solidarity. This is a pressing need essential to regaining Arab cohesion and confronting current events and developments, he noted.

The Omani minister of state said his talks with Yemeni officials were successful and were characterized by complete understanding designed to promote bilateral relations. Both sides agreed to hold meetings of the joint Omani-Yemeni committee in September to discuss trade cooperation and standardize earlier agreements, he added.

Bin-'Alawi said Oman rejects the steps of some Arab regimes to end the boycott of Israel, stressing that this is a pan-Arab matter. The Arab League can make a decision ending this boycott if it deems it appropriate, he added.

Second Round of UN Oil Talks 'Practical, Constructive'

JN0807202293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1918 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] New York, 8 Jul (INA)—The Iraqi and UN delegations resumed negotiations on resuming Iraqi oil exports to the international markets here today.

The INA correspondent in New York said this is the second in a series of sessions between Iraqi and UN delegations at the UN headquarters. Discussions in this and subsequent sessions are scheduled to deal with the details of resuming Iraqi oil exports to world markets.

Following the second round of talks, Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, under secretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, said the general atmosphere of the second working session of oil negotiations was practical, constructive, and characterized by a spirit of friendship and cooperation.

In statements to reporters, reported by the INA correspondent in New York this evening, al-Qaysi said the second session discussed various issues and that other issues will also be discussed.

The INA correspondent added that the Iraqi and UN delegations will resume their talks after midnight tonight, Baghdad time.

Minister on UN Cameras, 'Logical Dialogue' With U.S.

JN0907093693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0912 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has stressed that Iraq did not refuse to install cameras of the UN Special Commission.

In a statement to a VOA correspondent in Cairo, he said that Iraq has asked the UN Security Council to assess Iraq's implementation of Resolution 687 because the Council is as obligated as Iraq.

Hamid Yusuf Hammadi clarified that Iraq has implemented the clauses of Resolution 687, and therefore, the UN Security Council should lift the blockade imposed on Iraq wholly or partially.

The culture and information minister pointed out that the UN Security Council brought cameras to be installed in sites producing missiles whose range is less than 150 km, without implementing its obligations. The minister said that the Council wants to merge all the phases of Resolution 687. So, this means that it does not intend to lift the blockade, he added.

On the effects of the unjust blockade on Iraq, the minister said: The blockade has increased mortality rates. More than 170,000 Iraqi children have died so far.

The culture and information minister stressed that Iraq believes in constructive and realistic dialogue, and that it is ready to hold a dialogue and reach an understanding with some Arab states.

He recalled Iraq's efforts to hold a dialogue with the United States, noting that Iraq has always been ready to hold a dialogue with the United States. He said: We are ready to hold logical dialogue with it, and this is our constant policy.

Defense Minister Attends Field Training Exercise

JN0907101293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0956 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jul (INA)—Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, has attended the execution of the live ammunition field training exercise, the liberation heroes. The Ghanim formation carried out the exercise with effective support from artillery and armored units in shelling enemy emplacements.

The objectives set for the exercise were achieved in a record time with the least possible casualties.

The defense minister stressed the importance of training in teaching military personnel how to rise to the level of a real battle.

Government Envoy, Kurdish Leaders Reportedly Hold Talks

JN0807143393 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 8 Jul 93 pp 1, 18

[Excerpt] Salah-al-Din, Northern Iraq—AKHBAR AL-USBU'—Iraqi Kurdish sources have said that Dr. Makram Talabani, a former Iraqi minister, arrived in the Salah-al-Din area of northern Iraq at the start of this week with a new proposal from the Iraqi Government to the Kurdish leadership to resume the talks that were suspended 20 months ago.

These sources informed AKHBAR AL-USBU' that over the past three days Dr. Talabani held talks and contacts with Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, leaders of the Kurdistan Front, on many issues, including the Iraqi Government's proposal.

Despite the secrecy in which the new proposal was enshrouded by the Iraqi Government and the Kurdish leadership, Kurdish journalists in Irbil, the headquarters of the Kurdish leadership, noted that Dr. Makram Talabani stressed, during his meetings with the two Kurdish leaders, that the proposal represents the best formula ever presented by the Baghdad government to the Kurds.

Unconfirmed reports say the Iraqi Government informed the Kurds, through Dr. Talabani, of its readiness to recognize the local Kurdish government and parliament, introduce to the central government four ministers nominated by the Kurdish leadership, end the

government siege imposed on the Kurdish areas, and restore the normal situation there. These things will be achieved if the Kurdish leadership announces a cease-fire and enters new talks to discuss the other suspended topics.

The unconfirmed reports also say Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani informed the mediator that they will present these ideas to the Kurdish government and parliament for discussion and decision.

Reports from northern Iraq said that the new government proposal received extraordinary interest among the Kurdish quarters and that a positive decision will be taken in this regard. [passage omitted]

Talabani Says Border Security Achieved With Turkey

PM0907114093 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 5-11 Jul 93 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Talabani Tells AL-WASAT: We Have Achieved Border Security"]

[Text] London—Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], has emphasized that the Kurds have achieved "border security" with Turkey despite the absence of authority and stability in northern Iraq. In an interview with AL-WASAT, Talabani said that rejection of the Salah-al-Din conference "is wrong" and does not serve the Iraqi cause. He added that three equations are required for the overthrow of Saddam Husayn: unification of the opposition, a national equation; gaining the support of the neighboring states, a regional equation; and gaining international sympathy, an international equation.

On Turkey's position on renewal of the mandate for the international coalition forces on its territory, Talabani expressed the wish that Ankara not renew the mandate for the international forces "because we can depend on ourselves and we do not want Kurdistan to become another Bosnia. The international community is committed to defending the Kurds, and if Ankara refuses to renew the mandate, the international community would be compelled to lift the embargo on defensive weapons and to decide to protect us in another way that would not be subject to Turkish blackmail every six months."

In reply to the declaration made by the foreign ministers of Syria, Iran, and Turkey at their recent meeting in Tehran about anarchy, lack of authority, and disorder in Kurdistan, Talabani said that "that position was unfair and contrary to the facts and realities on the ground." He said that the Iraqi Kurds have achieved what the Iraqi and Turkish governments combined could not achieve for eight years, namely border security between the two countries. Talabani said that he found "this extreme opposition to the democratic developments" in Iraqi Kurdistan strange.

Iran Wooing Iraqi Kurds To Help Against Opposition

PM0807150793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jul 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Iran Coordinates With Kurds To Launch Military Operations in Iraq"]

[Text] London, Tehran, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iran has decided to send a high-level delegation to the "Kurdish safe haven" in northern Iraq to discuss a number of "joint cooperation" areas.

Iranian and Kurdish sources have emphasized that the "joint operations" against the armed Iranian groups based in Iraq will be on the top of the talks' agenda.

An Iranian source said in Tehran yesterday that Iran is seeking to reach an agreement "similar to the one Turkey reached with the Iraqi Kurds."

This agreement helped the Turkish Army to crush the Kurdish Workers Party's forces with the help of the Iraqi Kurds, who blocked all routes and prevented them from withdrawing.

It is not clear which Iranian oppositionist group in Iraq will be the target of joint action between Iran and the Kurds of northern Iraq.

[Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader] Jalal Talabani has on several occasions accused Iranian oppositionists of joining Saddam in attacking the Kurds.

Trade between Iran and the Kurds of northern Iraq has increased over the recent period. And Iran has announced that it will send its forces into Iraq to destroy opposition bases. Iran declared its position openly last month at the Damascus meeting held by the Iranian, Syrian, and Turkish foreign ministers. Iran told the meeting that Syria and Turkey should not consider the military operations it intends to launch a threat to Iraq's independence and territorial integrity. Iran began some weeks ago to deploy its forces alongside the Iraqi border in preparation for the land and air operations which it will launch inside Iraqi territory.

Clandestine Radio Reports Explosions, Violence

UN Police Residence Bombed

NC0807182193 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] A timed device weighing one kg exploded today, Thursday, in one of the quarters of Dahuk city. The device targeted a building where a number of Danish international policemen reside. No material or human losses were caused by the explosion.

Foreign Ministry Building Targeted

NC0807182093 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources have reported that a device exploded in the Iraqi regime's Foreign Ministry building in Baghdad and that a number of the regime's henchmen have been killed or wounded.

The sources added that the regime's intelligence organs immediately launched a large scale arrest campaign in the areas surrounding the ministry building and noted that a state of panic prevails in the ruling circles in Baghdad, particularly as the opposition operations against the regime have increased.

Gunfire Heard in Republican Palace

NC0807181893 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] According to news reports, the sound of gunfire was heard on Tuesday [6 July] inside the Republican Palace and the Iraqi regime's henchmen immediately imposed a curfew on the nearby areas.

BABIL reported yesterday that a booby-trapped car exploded in front of the Iraqi Journalists Union building in al-Basrah. The paper accused the Iraqi opposition forces of staging this operation.

Regime Retaliates for Death of Officer

NC0807182593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] The regime forces shelled with their artillery yesterday the areas surrounding Qarah Tapah in the [word indistinct] district. The forces deployed in the areas surrounding the town of (Fikhi) were put in a state of alert and precautions were taken.

A reliable source said that these measures came in the wake of the killing of the recruiting officer of the Qarah Tapah district and one of his soldiers in a clash that took place on Tuesday [6 July] between this officer and a number of young men from the area who refused to enlist in the army. The regime artillery shelled the area at random.

Letter to UN Protests 21, 23 June U-2 Flights

JN0807130893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jul (INA)—Iraq has informed the United Nations that the U.S. U-2 spy plane has continued to violate Iraq's airspace under the pretext of conducting aerial survey for the UN Special Committee.

In a letter Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf sent yesterday to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, Iraq said the said plane violated Iraqi airspace, flying from the direction of Saudi Arabia on 21 and 23 June. The plane, he said, flew over large areas in central, southern, and northern Iraq for periods ranging between three and seven hours, before leaving Iraqi airspace in the direction of its base in Saudi Arabia.

In his letter, the foreign minister added that the flight by the said U.S. plane on Wednesday, 23 June, gives conclusive evidence about the nature of the spying mission this plane is fulfilling. Most of the time, the plane flew over Baghdad, thus confirming that the plane chooses its targets and times in accordance with the U.S. intelligence and political requirements, and not with the requirements of the UN Special Committee.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf noted the letter Iraq sent to the UN Security Council president on 27 June. In that letter, Iraq said the fact that the plane flew for many hours over Baghdad a few days before the aggression confirms that it is being used for intelligence purposes, and to pave the way for a U.S. aggression against Iraq.

The foreign minister denounced these unjustified violations of Iraqi airspace, which have made the number of violations by this plane rise to 145. He underlined Iraq's position; namely, that this plane is used for purposes not determined by the UN Security Council and that its activity infringes on Iraq's sovereignty and security.

Note Protests Airspace 'Violations'

JN0207153293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] Iraq yesterday protested to the United Nations U.S. aircraft violations of its airspace for purposes of reconnaissance and provocation. A note from Iraq's permanent UN delegate to the secretary general notes that 448 sorties were mounted from 22 to 27 June. On 22 June, the note said, one of the aircraft dropped thermal flares to the north of the village of Makhmur in the Irbil Governorate. On 24 June, a U.S. reconnaissance plane violated Iraqi airspace in southern areas of al-Diwaniyah, al-Najaf, al-Samawah, and al-Salman. On 27 June, the U.S. fleet launched missiles at the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad leaving a number of civilians martyred or wounded and numerous homes demolished.

Iraq's delegate requested that the UN chief circulate the note as a UN Security Council document.

Group of 163 Returns From Saudi 'Detention Camps'

JN0807201793 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 7 Jul 93 p 4

[By the AL-THAWRAH correspondent in al-Muthanna]

[Text] A new group of returnees from the detention camps in the Saudi lands has arrived in al-Muthanna Governorate. The group includes 163 citizens from al-Basrah, Dhi Qar, Maysan, al-Qadisiyah, al-Najaf, Baghdad, and al-Muthanna Governorates.

A reception was held for the returnees in which Muhsin Khadr, governor of al-Muthanna; Comrade Rashid Salluh, secretary general of the [Ba'th] Party's al-Muthanna branch; heads of central departments; and a crowd of citizens took part.

Immediately after arrival, the returnees kissed the soil of the dear homeland, and expressed their great love for and pride in the builder of the glory of great Iraq, leader President Saddam Husayn. They stressed their determination to walk behind the God is great flag.

Rabin Discusses Peace Process With U.S. Team

Press Reports on Meeting

TA0907062993

[Editorial Report] All 9 July Israeli newspapers report on the 8 July meeting between the visiting U.S. team and Prime Minister Rabin and his aides.

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew, in a report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Gay Bekhor, and news agencies on pages A1 and A10, states: "'The U.S. team was able to perceive that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is ready to embrace all the principles featuring in the U.S. document.' This observation was made by Israeli officials who participated in last night's meeting with the U.S. peace team headed by Dennis Ross at the prime minister's bureau." A related front-page report by the political correspondent of Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew says that "the position presented at yesterday's meeting was that Israel will say yes to the U.S. document, provided changes are introduced." The cited changes are "the jurisdiction of the interim arrangement and the issue of Jerusalem."

The HA'ARETZ report further states: "The meeting participants defined it as an exploratory talk in which Rabin explained the need to find a softened formulation concerning the debate on Jerusalem during the permanent status discussions. The prime minister pointed out that he prefers a less unequivocal phrasing than that used in the U.S. paper."

HA'ARETZ adds that "referring to yesterday's terrorist attack in south Lebanon, Rabin said the situation there was 'intolerable.' He stressed that Syria and the United States should take action to prevent escalation on the northern border." A related report by Tzvi Gilat, Dani Sade, and Shim'on Schiffer on pages 1 and 8 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 9 July cites Rabin as saying at the meeting with the U.S. team that "the terrorists who acted yesterday against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops did so with the Syria's knowledge. He warned that the peace process is liable to suffer if Syria continues backing Palestinian terrorist organizations."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew, in a report by Pe'erli Shahar and Pinhas 'Inbari on pages 1 and 6, adds that after the meeting, "the impression in Jerusalem was that" "the United States will try to persuade President al-Asad to cancel the linkage between the Israeli-Syrian and the Israeli-Palestinian agreements, thereby indirectly pressuring the Palestinians to reach an agreement."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew, in a page 6 report by Amnon Barzilay, Gid'on Sa'ar, and Yoram Binur, adds: "Political sources in Jerusalem feared last night that Ross would have difficulty promoting the process. The sources said the only way to propel the talks was by persuading Secretary of State Warren Christopher to take over the handling of the negotiations."

Rubinstein Comments

TA0807191193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Excerpts] The meeting between the U.S. peace team and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin ended a short time ago. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports from the Prime Minister's Office:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted]

[Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of Israeli delegation to talks with the Palestinians] The prime minister welcomed the U.S. peace team, headed by Dennis Ross. The meeting centered on all the issues pertaining to the bilateral negotiations. In addition to the U.S. document and the Palestinian track, we also discussed the Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese tracks. Both sides evinced an extremely constructive and positive attitude. The next few days will see more consultations dealing with all tracks and all of the issues.

[Sukenik] So far we have heard nothing new. It is possible to say, however, that Israel has given an affirmative answer to the U.S. document. It is demanding, however, that several changes be introduced in it. [passage omitted]

It should be noted that if the U.S. peace team manages to facilitate the drafting of an Israeli-Palestinian document and possibly to further the understanding between Israel and Syria during its week-long shuttle mission, there are good chances that Secretary of State Warren Christopher will come to the region toward the end of the month to help draft such a document or even attend the signing ceremony. Finally, a closed meeting was held in the Prime Minister's Office this afternoon regarding the Syrian issue. In this meeting, it was said that there is nothing new on the Syrian front. It is hoped, however, that the shuttle mission will offer some help. Edward Djerejian, the incoming U.S. ambassador to Israel and a former U.S. ambassador to Syria, has excellent relations with President al-Asad. Tomorrow or the day after, he will join the U.S. team, apparently in a bid to soften al-Asad and enable some progress on the Syrian issue. [end recording]

Official Meetings Continue

TA0907051293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] Israeli and American sources in Jerusalem do not believe that a joint declaration of principles between Israel and the Palestinians will be signed during the current shuttle trip by the U.S. peace team. Yesterday evening's meeting at the prime minister's bureau was mainly to consolidate the working framework for continuing the talks.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the Israeli representatives sought to learn details about the modifications the United States is proposing to make in

the joint document of principles. The U.S. team will meet with Foreign Minister Peres and Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin this afternoon. The Americans will probably also meet with President 'Ezer Weizman. This afternoon, the U.S. team will meet with the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

Tomorrow, Dennis Ross and his staff will leave for Cairo. They will return to Jerusalem on Saturday evening [10 July] and hold a meeting with Prime Minister Rabin. The Americans will visit Syria on Sunday and Jordan on Monday. The U.S. officials will also return to Israel on Monday to sum up the first round of the shuttle trip.

Peres' Meeting Ends

TA0907125693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] The meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and the U.S. peace team is over. Mr. Peres and his aides proposed to the guests to stop dwelling on the formulation of documents and revert to action: Implementing autonomy in Gaza first; transferring powers on social, health, and welfare issues to the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria at once; and signing economic agreements between Israel and the inhabitants of the territories. They also proposed making the wording of the document of principles as vague as possible in order to enable progress.

Commentary Doubts Efficacy of Ross' Shuttle Tour

TA0907134393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Jul 93 p A3

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Baker-Style Mediation Is Required"]

[Text] The arrival of the U.S. delegation reminds peace process veterans that former Secretary of State James Baker took the trouble to make 10 shuttle trips to the Middle East in his quest to bridge the gap between much simpler procedural differences and the fundamental controversy separating Israel from the Palestinians and Syrians.

Warren Christopher, who had chosen the Middle East to be the first leg of his travels outside the United States toward the end of the winter, preferred to dispatch a complete group of senior experts in charge of the peace process portfolio. His own visit was in a way a declaration of the administration's intentions. He left the region after promising to be "a full partner" in the negotiations.

Washington translated the full-partnership term into two U.S. drafts of Israeli-Palestinian framework agreements. On the other tracks, the American partnership has been totally passive.

Edward Djerejian, an assistant to the secretary, has stated repeatedly that the United States can build a bridge over a river, but cannot build one over an ocean. Senior Jerusalem officials believe that the United States is not prepared to jump into the cold water. In their opinion, the circular argument on the substance of peace and the depth of withdrawal can be resolved in no way other than Baker-style U.S. mediation, accompanied by gesture by President Clinton toward his Syrian counterpart. In any event, Ross is not the man in whose ear al-Asad will whisper the magic word "normalization" that will send him to Jerusalem to pressure Rabin to pronounce the two words: "full withdrawal."

The U.S. team's foremost task, therefore, revolves around the Israeli-Palestinian bridging document—or more accurately, around the effort to persuade the PLO, via its representatives from the territories, to take over the Civil Administration's powers at once, with the stipulation that the move would not be prejudicial to future permanent status arrangements. Yitzhaq Rabin, via Elyaqim Rubinstein, has secured the important amendments he wished to introduce in the U.S. document. He can be expected to present no difficulties on the road to the signing of an agreement.

The U.S. peace team's composition has hardly changed since Baker's days. All five, with the exception of Martin Indyk, had submitted papers to the previous secretary of state in various pre-Madrid-conference stages of negotiations. The signatures on those papers had been obtained through the personal authority of the U.S. President's direct representative. In any event, political elements in Jerusalem—Jewish and Palestinian—have difficulty believing that Dennis Ross' endeavors here will be more successful than they were in Washington.

The visit will be considered a success only if it is followed by Secretary Christopher's visit prior to the next round of talks.

Peres: Jibril To Pay for South Lebanon Deaths

TA0807171393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that although Israel would like to focus its efforts on the political arena, the latter will not prohibit Israel from taking every security measure necessary to guarantee safety in the Galilee; also, Jibril's organization [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command] will pay the price.

This afternoon the foreign minister toured the Misgav Regional Council district, which is celebrating the first decade since its establishment. Our correspondent Qobi Mandel reports from Misgav:

[Mandel] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said this afternoon that the government has no doubt it should take every necessary step to guarantee safety in Israel's north. Jibril's organization, which was responsible for the death

of two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and the injury of three others this morning, will pay the price, the foreign minister asserted.

[Begin recording] [Peres] Jibril is not a new figure in the Middle East. We have clashed with him quite a few times. He paid the price for his terrorist actions in the past, and he will pay this time, too.

We have no desire to cooperate with those who would like to escalate the situation in that sector. All we want is to invest our main effort in the political sphere, but that will not prevent us from taking every security measure necessary to guarantee the the safety of the Galilee's population.

[Mandel] There has recently been a string of events in the north. Is it perhaps the beginning of a war of attrition?

[Peres] We should distinguish between actions carried out by Hizballah and those by Jibril. They are not the same, and I am not even certain they coordinate their operations. What happened today was done by Jibril. It is important that we know who does what, in order to know what should be done to stop it. Moreover, the logic behind the Hizballah operations is not always evident; it is not always clear whether they are retaliating for something, or whether they are just flexing their political muscles. In any event, we routinely assess the scope of their operations, analyze their origin, and react as required—no more and no less. [end recording]

Beilin Discusses Syrian Connection to Terrorism

TA0907060993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Me'ir Einstein on 9 July—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Einstein] Earlier this morning, I spoke with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. At the beginning of our conversation, I asked him to comment on the possible connection between the recent terrorist attacks and the peace process.

[Beilin] It is hard to ignore the fact that sometimes when there appears to be some progress in the political process, there is an outbreak of terrorism in the region. We, of course, should follow a dual policy: on one hand, to wage a ruthless war against terrorism, and, on the other hand, not to surrender to it and not, God forbid, to slow down or undermine the political process because of terrorism.

[Einstein] If I understood you correctly, you attributed the recent outbreak of terrorism to progress in the peace process. Perhaps the surge in violence results from what the other side perceives as a deadlock?

[Beilin] Look, it is very hard to understand the motivation behind these actions, but generally speaking, the elements engaged in terrorism are not a band of peace lovers but rather people or organizations who feel that the peace process poses a great danger to them or to the interests they represent. In general, they act whenever there is an important visit, like the present one by the U.S. delegation, or anything else they regard as progress. Of course, there are other phenomena when there is no political process. However, I believe that the recent outburst has more to do with what is perceived as progress than the other way around. Our job is to make every effort within the constraints of our security interests to promote the political negotiations and to facilitate far more rapid progress in order to resolve things in a matter of weeks and months, and not years.

[Einstein] Do you think that the Syrians were behind yesterday's terrorist attack in south Lebanon? Some commentators say that the finger should be pointed at the Syrians because Ahmad Jibril's organization in Damascus assumed responsibility for the incident.

[Beilin] Yes, it is true that Jibril's organization assumed responsibility, and it is also true that he is based in Damascus. The question of whether the Syrians also directed him or whether he was acting on his own volition is something we cannot know. Clearly, with regard to the political negotiations again, the Syrians and Israel have currently been stuck at the same point for some time. On the other hand, the Syrians have been scrupulous about preventing any violent attacks across their borders for many years. Therefore, it is very difficult to know whether the Syrian Government or Syrian elements were behind yesterday's attack.

[Einstein] Deputy Minister Beilin, what are our expectations from the visit of the U.S. team headed by Dennis Ross?

[Beilin] Our immediate expectations are that this group will be able to bridge the differences between the Palestinian and Israeli attitude to the U.S. paper, which, the public should know, is only at a very initial stage. This paper is still a very early draft. It basically sets the agenda for negotiations, which have not yet even really begun, between the Palestinians and us. Therefore, there would still be quite a long way to go even if these differences were papered over. Perhaps, if the Americans feel that progress was made in bridging the gaps, their trip could be followed by a visit by the secretary of state, which could further promote the process. [passage omitted]

Lubrani on Response to Terrorism, Syrian Involvement

TA0907080993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Qobi Meydan and Gilat Levi—live]

[Text] [Levi] Good morning to Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of government activities in the territories.

[Lubrani] Good morning.

[Levi] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has appealed to Damascus through the United States to rein in the terrorist organizations. Does Israel regard Syria, and perhaps Lebanon, as the parties responsible for the exacerbation in violence over the past week in the security zone?

[Lubrani] Yes.

[Levi] What does that mean?

[Lubrani] This means that we are looking for a way to stop this terrorism without having to resort to a large-scale operation that will force us to enter Lebanon and restore order.

[Levi] In other words, through political efforts?

[Lubrani] Yes, definitely.

[Meydan] Has there already been any initial reaction from the governments Israel considers responsible—Syria and Lebanon?

[Lubrani] No, not yet.

[Meydan] It appears that Israel is trying to tread a thin line between not heating up the situation—and thus playing into the hands of the extremists—and not responding too softly.

[Lubrani] That is correct and as always, this is no simple matter.

[Meydan] What is different about the situation now?

[Lubrani] Look, this is not an isolated incident. Very serious incidents have been accumulating recently. This kind of provocation must be dealt with.

[Levi] Yes, but the chief of staff said that a war is under way in the security zone. How do you see the balance between conducting pinpointed operations, to avoid any exacerbation in the violence, and retaliation in wartime, as the chief of staff puts it?

[Lubrani] Well, first of all that very much depends on our reaction. It depends whether these are localized reactions or large-scale punitive operations. We try not to engage in large-scale punishment. We are dealing with an area that has a Shiite population on both sides of the border. We definitely do not want to antagonize Shiites which have absolutely nothing to do with these terrorist attacks.

[Meydan] Is there any difficulty in drawing red lines in this kind of struggle that is basically a war of attrition, which occasionally, like this morning, extracts a very painful price? What kind of red lines would you, as a representative of the Israeli Government, wish to draw for the benefit of the warring parties listening to us this morning?

[Lubrani] There are no red lines. There are acts of terrorism which we must know how to deal with. Our problem is how to do this without allowing the situation to deteriorate. This requires delicate balance, and pinpointed and precise reactions. One must know where to strike, where the blow will be most painful, to establish deterrence. This is not simple mathematics.

[Meydan] In other words, the organizations operating in south Lebanon may draw from your remarks that Israel is not contemplating massive military intervention at the moment?

[Lubrani] I am definitely not saying that at all. We will clearly do all we can to prevent that.

[Meydan] Does the fact that yesterday's attack was attributed to Ahmad Jibril's organization, which is closer to Syria than to the Hizballah, have any significance?

[Lubrani] I think it has clear significance. This organization is based in Damascus, and a certain party can prevent it from operating.

[Levi] Thank you very much, Mr. Uri Lubrani.

Baraq Comments on Situation in North, Iraqi Threat

TA0907110893 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 9 Jul 93 pp 1-3

["Special" interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq by Tzvi Gilat; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Gilat] Lt. Gen. Baraq, what is happening on the northern front? It seems that it is not the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] that is setting the rules of the game.

[Baraq] We knew from the time the security zone was established that katyusha rockets would fly over it and, indeed, dozens of them have. We have a short memory. The security zone is a means, not an end. The end is security for the northern settlements, and this is being fully accomplished when it comes to terrorist infiltrations.

I would like to remind you that we are talking about settlements which have experienced terrorist attacks, such as Misgav 'Am, Kefar Yuval, Qiryat Shemona, Ma'alot, Avivim, and Nahariyya. We have simply forgotten it all. This kind of protection the security zone provides very well.

[Gilat] But katyushas continue to fall.

[Baraq] The security zone also provides a partial answer to the katyushas. It does not prevent them, but the delicate balance on both sides reduces the phenomenon. An all-out war is being waged there involving artillery, katyushas, blockades, explosives, attacks on military positions, and even attempts to activate booby-trapped cars and kidnappings.

We use all our means of warfare. We operate our best infantry units. We activate our armored, artillery, and Air Force units. At times we even use jet fighters. A

constant, low-profile war is being waged there, using intelligence and rather complex and sophisticated electronic warfare systems—all of it designed to attain security in the north.

Anybody thinking in terms of absolute security is daydreaming. Objectively speaking, however, the goal is being achieved, albeit at the cost of fatalities to the IDF and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] and a workload on the troops, but the price is justified.

[Gilat] Would you recommend an expansion of the security zone, as several Knesset members have suggested recently?

[Baraq] There is no need for my recommendations on such issues. All adult Israeli citizens are aware of our fight against terror from Lebanon in the past 15 years and its consequences.

[Gilat] Are you talking about a possible deterioration of the situation into war?

[Baraq] I am talking about thinking first and acting later. After all, the situation on the other side of the security zone is far more problematic and difficult than along the northern border and in northern Israel. We must refraim from measures which might be counterproductive to the objective we want to attain, which is security in our northern settlements.

[Gilat] But the possibility of a deterioration exists.

[Baraq] I do not rule out the possibility that we may get into a larger head-on confrontation with Hizballah that would involve a greater use of all types of force. However, if and when such a situation occurs, we should be in control of it rather than be dragged into it.

[Gilat] Are we striving for such a situation?

[Baraq] No, neither there nor in any other front. On the contrary, we want to minimize the chances of a deterioration. However, seeing that there are two sides involved, such a development cannot be ruled out altogether. [passage omitted]

[Gilat] The Americans recently raided Iraq. Does the latter still pose a threat to us?

[Baraq] In the short term, Iraq is still licking its wounds from its defeat in the war and is subject to very close scrutiny by the international community. It focuses its efforts inward, and does not even exercise its full sovereignty. I wish we could make sure that this situation continue for another 10 years.

However, in the long run, Saddam Husayn poses a very serious threat because of his blind ambition, his total lack of inhibition to use force, and his ability to get back on his feet. It is very important to keep the juggernaut on Iraq until the current regime collapses and is replaced.

By the same token, Iran, on the other side of the river, is engaged in a long-term buildup effort aimed at becoming a regional superpower, both in terms of conventional and nonconventional weapons. It, too, has a nuclear program which might come to fruition if it is not stopped and subjected to very tight controls. Within the next 10 years Iran might attain nuclear weapons and pose a real threat to stability in the Persian Gulf; in fact, to the entire Muslim strip running from Marrakech to Bangladesh.

[Gilat] And to Israel, too.

[Baraq] Of course, but have no interest to turn Iran into a fierce and relentless enemy. In my opinion, the Iranians threaten many spheres of stability in the region. Iran's nonconventional effort must be curtailed and reined in before it goes past the point of no return. [passage omitted]

[Gilat] The IDF is supposed to draft contingency plans to meet new situations. Does the IDF have a plan for a different deployment on the Golan Heights?

[Baraq] There is no need for a contingency plan. We have been on the Golan Heights 25 years. We have no doubt that the Golan is of vital importance as long as a war might occur there. We need the Golan Heights both for defense and for offense.

If developments in the political process call for a revision of our deployment and security arrangements, we could formulate our position and present it within a reasonable period of time.

[Gilat] Have you not been asked yet?

[Baraq] We have not been asked and we are not doing that, rightly so I think, because given the conditions in Israel such dealings could cause damage and would bring no tangible benefit at this stage.

[Gilat] That sounds rather odd in view of the fact that we have been asking Syria around the negotiating table to specify the extent of peace and the U.S. ideas about early-warning stations. Does this not call for an Israeli plan?

[Baraq] It does not call for anything at the moment. Whatever is called for we will deliver on time. We already have early-warning stations on the Golan, and we know what they can and cannot do. The IDF will not stand in the way of political opportunities, if these emerge.

Of course, any arrangement will have to take Israel's vital security interests into account. The IDF will have something to say about the exact nature of these interests, and it will say it the moment it is asked to do so.

[Gilat] And if I were to ask you now?

[Baraq] I would be sorry to tell you that I think you understand that I understand that you understand that at the moment I cannot elaborate on any of the considerations.

Sarid Wants 'Arafat To Eliminate Gaza Terror

TA0807155193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by Pnina Bat-Tzvi and Yaron Wilensky—live]

[Text] [Bat-Tzvi] Good afternoon, Minister Yosi Sarid.

[Sarid] Good afternoon.

[Bat-Tzvi] This morning's terror incident in south Lebanon indicates that Ahmad Jibril's men have no expectations from or relation to the visit to the region of the U.S. peace team.

[Sarid] This is true.

[Bat-Tzvi] You have called on 'Arafat to enter Gaza and eliminate terrorism there. 'Arafat, however, is facing a powerful rejectionist front, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Do you think that your proposal is realistic?

[Sarid] I think it is the only realistic proposal. It is clear that terrorism must be eliminated. Israel is waging a war on terrorism, but cannot overcome it completely—indeed, if it is possible at all. Yasir 'Arafat has a much better chance of accomplishing this, and there are many reasons for this. History teaches us that there are few examples of one nation overcoming terrorism generated by another nation. There are many examples, however, of a nation eradicating its own terrorism by implementing its right to self-determination.

[Bat-Tzvi] The reaction of the Palestinian delegation members—among them Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi—to the proposal of Gaza first was negative. The Palestinians are demanding a comprehensive arrangement. This means that you are actually ignoring what our partners are saying.

[Sarid] You are very mistaken. If, however, you are referring to Gaza first in the sense that Israel has a problem with Gaza and merely wants to rid itself of this problem without the Palestinians receiving anything in return, then you are correct. This is why there is no option of a unilateral implementation of Gaza first, as long as the Palestinians do not find any advantage for themselves in this proposal. Any proposal that does not contain an advantage for both sides is irrelevant.

[Bat-Tzvi] What advantage is there in your proposal?

[Sarid] My proposal will enable Yasir 'Arafat—who is far away from here, as everybody knows—to arrive in Gaza, and I assume that he is very interested in this because he will be able to consider this the beginning of the Palestinians' implementation of their right to self-determination. This is certainly an advantage for the Palestinians.

At the same time, 'Arafat will face two main duties. One, which Israel cannot shoulder by itself, is the economic and social rehabilitation of the Gaza Strip—an area full of misery and suffering. Israel cannot rehabilitate this region and cannot receive international support for this.

[Bat-Tzvi] When will the government raise this proposal for discussion?

[Sarid] It was already raised in the government. Some three or four months ago I was the first minister to submit this proposal to the government. Such proposals remain pending until a decision is made on them. I do not believe that this proposal currently enjoys a majority in the government, but this is how governments function—every minister tries to convince the others that his position is correct. Sooner or later such issues are decided.

[Bat-Tzvi] Sir, it seems that you are sending out trial balloons.

[Sarid] This is normal practice in political life, and it is done deliberately. Trial balloons are a very legitimate part of political thought and practice. We do not settle, however, for trial balloons, and I can prove that....

[Wilensky, interrupting] Is this how you regard the comments made by Hagay Merom in the Knesset?

[Sarid] No, that was no trial balloon. Knesset Member Merom described his impressions based on talks he apparently held with ministers. This was no trial balloon.

[Wilensky] From you acquaintance with these ministers, is his list of Labor ministers supporting talks with the PLO correct?

[Sarid] I prefer not to react. I am not in the habit of making public the contents of private meetings. I can only refer to what the ministers are saying publicly. Based on their public remarks I sometimes feel that these people are wavering and are occasionally forming different assessments regarding negotiations with the PLO. The very fact that they are considering this issue has its own political significance.

[Bat-Tzvi] Thank you very much, Minister Sarid.

Meretz Minister Proposes Deal for Talks With PLO

TA0907043193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] Cabinet Minister Amnon Rubinstein of the Meretz bloc has proposed a deal between Israel and the PLO. Minister Rubinstein says the Israeli Government should agree to include the PLO in the peace talks in exchange for Palestinian commitment not to raise two subjects in the negotiations· Jerusalem and jurisdiction over Jewish settlements in the territories. Rubinstein pointed out that Meretz leaders had warned members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks in the past that raising those two subjects could cause the peace talks to break down.

Settler Murdered; Explosive Charges Dismantled

TA0907044093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] Mordekhay Lipkin, a 39-year-old resident of Teqoa', was murdered last night on the Teqoa'-Efrat road, southeast of Jerusalem. He was killed by five bullets when terrorists shot at his car.

Our correspondent Moti Amir notes that the head of the Har Hevron regional council reported that during the night there was a serious deterioration of the security situation in the vicinity.

An explosive charge that was hidden between rocks at a makeshift barricade exploded near Sammu'. There were no casualties. A police bomb disposal expert discovered and safely dismantled another two explosive charges concealed among rocks at makeshift barricades. Makeshift roadblocks were set up on most roads leading from Har Hevron to Jerusalem, stones were hurled at passing cars, and tires were set on fire.

Following Mordekhay Lipkin's murder, the commander of the Central Command met with several senior officials from the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to discuss the security situation in the area.

Officials Comment on G-7 Summit Statement

TA0907104893

[Editorial Report] All Israeli newspapers on 9 July carry reports on the G-7 summit statement. Several report reactions of prominent Israeli officials.

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew carries a report by 'Aqiva Eldar and news agencies on pages A1 and A10 on the G-7 statement and the reaction of Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, who "defined the statement as 'excellent' despite the clause urging Israel to respect its obligations regarding the territories. He asserted that there is no explicit linkage between the two issues and that the statement is a signal to the Arabs to lift the boycott."

A HA'ARETZ page C3 report by Avi Schubert states: "Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish has instructed the negotiating teams in his office and in Geneva to prepare for the imminent resumption of the GATT talks in the wake of the resolution of the G-7 summit in Tokyo." The report adds that "the Industry and Trade Ministry anticipates that Israel will soon have to launch negotiations on issues related to the reciprocal opening of various sectors to international trade and on government trade and services purchases.

"Harish said that Israel should analyze the Tokyo resolution's possible repercussions on agricultural policies. He added that the arrangement achieved in Tokyo aimed to detach the agricultural sector from progress in other sectors." HA'ARETZ further cites Harish as saying that "the Tokyo resolution is expected to bring about a breakthrough, and that lower custom taxes are the main component of the issues which have been postponed until now as a result of disagreements.

"Harish added that lower custom taxes in markets, in which Israel has a free trade zone, erode its status with respect to various products. This erosion was anticipated and should be viewed as a part of a whole package which will be beneficial to Israel."

A report by Sever Plotzker and news agencies on page 4 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew emphasizes a G-7 statement clause pertaining to the Middle East. According to the report, Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel "views the statement as a very significant positive contribution to the Israeli economy. Professor Frenkel stressed the special significance of the fact that no Israeli action whatsoever is demanded as a condition for the abeyance of Arab boycott. It can be said, Frenkel added, that the participants of the G-7 summit in Tokyo presented Israel with a very important and precious gift."

King-'Arafat Talks Result in New Joint Committee

JN0807112993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Jul 93 pp 1, 22

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] When I asked one of the most prominent members of the Palestinian delegation to the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, led by His Majesty King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, about the results of these talks, he said: "Contrary to the dictum which is commonly used in Arab circles, we have agreed to agree." Joint Jordanian-Palestinian coordination committees will be formed soon to coordinate dialogue with the United States in its capacity as the main cosponsor of the Middle East peace process, and to program the course of future bilateral talks with Israel.

The senior Palestinian official disclosed to AL-DUSTUR a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement to form a two-branch joint committee. The first branch will be located in Amman and will be at the level of ministers. On the Palestinian side, it will include PLO Executive Committee members Faruq Qaddumi, Yasir 'Amr, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, Sulayman al-Najjab, Mahmud 'Abbas, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and Palestinian Ambassador in Amman al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim. Among members of the Jordanian side are: Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar, information minister, Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The official said that the second branch will be located in Washington. It will include members of the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to the peace talks. He said that a unified Jordanian-Palestinian stand will be adopted during contacts with the United States. He added that the first thing these joint committees will do in the next few days is to study the U.S. working paper and to coordinate the joint Jordanian-Palestinian stand during talks with U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross.

The Palestinian official said that the Jordanian-Palestinian committees will discuss all possibilities concerning the future Jordanian-Palestinian relations in light of existing facts. Both sides agreed this will eventually contribute to the inevitable union of the two banks of River Jordan. The nature of this union will depend on the results of the peace process and the extent of the U.S. response to the requirements of peace in the Middle East.

The senior Palestinian official noted that the most important agreement in these distinguished talks will result in the emergence of a common language for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian policy toward the peace process and the talks with Israel and the United States. He said: We will also struggle as one team to save Jerusalem and secure the legitimate national rights for our people in the occupied territories.

Salih, 'Arafat Call 'Fully Recovered' King 8 Jul

JN0807154893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received phone calls from his brothers, Presidents 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of Yemen and Yasir 'Arafat of the state of Palestine. The two sought to reassure themselves about his majesty's health and wished the king well. His majesty reassured Salih and 'Arafat about the state of his health and said he has now fully recovered from fatigue. His majesty thanked them for their brotherly and sincere sentiments.

King Pays Visit to Army Headquarters, Holds Meeting

JN0807155893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn visited Army Headquarters at noon today. On hand to welcome his majesty were Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff; the staff commander of the Royal Ground Forces; aides to the chief of staff; and the inspector-general.

His majesty conferred with the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff for some time about matters related to the Armed Forces. Royal Court Chief Dr. Khalid al-Karaki attended the meeting.

King Welcomes Bosnian Refugees, Promises Assistance

JN0807191993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Speech by King Husayn to Bosnian refugees in Amman on 8 July—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Your Arab, Jordanian, and Hashemite family holds each and every one of you in deep affection. Our one family, [Queen] Nur and myself extend love to all of you.

You are here in your second homeland, dear kinfolk. Our story, God willing, is the story of the emigrants and the partisans. [reference to early Muslims who, led by Muhammad, sought refuge in Medina from persecution in Mecca]

I call upon God the almighty to grant all of us, and especially you, the strength and energy to pass the test of this life, severe as it is.

Even under trying circumstances, we have always held that justice will inevitably triumph. We will stick to that faith. Until that transpires with God's help, each and every one of you will for me, Nur, and all Jordanians, count as brother, sister, son, or daughter.

We pray to God to help us fulfill part of our duty. I repeat with all sincerity and warmth: Please never feel for a single moment that you are not at home. Please feel that you are among relatives who hold you dearly and sympathize with you and appreciate your courage, patience, and endurance. You and we are family; we are by you and for you.

I thank you so much for this get-together. I hope you will feel free to bring to my personal attention whatever we can do to help. We will be very delighted to do all that we can to help and do our duty by our kinfolk.

May God bless you all. God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Editorials Analyze 'Difficult Mission' of Ross Tour

Objective of Tour Viewed

JN0807115693 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
8 Jul 93 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "On the Eve of Dennis Ross' Tour"]

[Text] On the eve of the tour of Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the Arab-Israeli talks, the United States seems to be working hastily, not to achieve a just and comprehensive peace settlement in accordance with the UN resolutions and the principles of the international legitimacy, but to conclude any deal after which Washington will claim that it has made a positive achievement in its Middle East policy.

The United States does not conceal this in its declared policy toward the Middle East. On the contrary, this is clear in all the U.S. moves, contacts, and statements, including the statements attributed to senior U.S. Administration officials regarding concerns over an interruption in the course of the negotiations, which, eventually, will lead to the collapse of the peace process.

Perhaps Dennis Ross' scheduled Middle East tour falls within the framework of this U.S. policy, especially since it is part of a declared U.S. objective; namely, urging the parties to the bilateral talks to accept Washington's proposals, including the declaration of principles which is proposed to tackle the stalemate in the talks on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

We believe that the current U.S. interest in the future of the peace process is one of the few positive signs which show the existence of a U.S. desire to reactivate the negotiations and to bridge the gap between the various parties' stands. However, we are worried that the U.S. hastiness, or eagerness to conclude any diplomatic deal, would exhaust the patience of President Clinton's administration and encourage it to wash its hands of a long and stumbling peace process.

Based on this, we call on the U.S. Administration to take the Arab-Israeli talks more seriously, wisely, and responsibly, to prevent Israel from urging the United States to make early negative conclusions, including leaving the current negotiations alone until they reach a dead end. This becomes clear if we understand that the Israeli Government is working openly to reduce the U.S. intervention in the course of the negotiations, and to exhaust the U.S. catalyst without which the peace process will not achieve the desired progress.

Ross Should Emphasize Jerusalem

JN0907094793 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
9 Jul 93 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "The Jerusalem Issue Is the Basis of Ross' Mission"]

[Text] Every time Israel wants to stop the wheels of the negotiations it resorts to holding a Knesset or government meeting and adopting resolutions it uses as justifications before the U.S. Administration and considers as sacred constants that cannot and may not be overstepped.

As soon as it was announced that U.S. envoy Dennis Ross plans to visit the region, the Israeli Government expedited a meeting in which it unanimously decided that united Jerusalem is forever the capital of Israel. This is so Rabin and Peres can brandish this decision in the U.S. envoy's face and prevent him from discussing the Jerusalem issue to facilitate the resumption of the negotiations. This is especially true since the U.S. Administration has announced its willingess to amend its draft proposal on Palestinian self-rule in the occupied Palestinian territories.

It is well known that the issues of Jerusalem and Palestinian geographic jurisdiction are points of dispute between the Israeli and Palestinian sides.

The U.S. envoy's tour of the region is aimed at discussing these two issues with Israel, given that these two issues are obstructing the negotiations.

Here, we should emphasize that the Jerusalem issue not only concerns the Palestinian side, but it also concerns all the sides taking part directly in the peace process. No Arab party can abandon the fact that Jersusalem is an Arab and Islamic territory and it cannot be relinquished even if the negotiations fail.

This means that the Arab cordon states must unite in solidarity, coordinate their efforts, and crystalize one stand on the issue of Jerusalem since it is part of the territories Israel occupied in the 5 June 1967 aggression. Moreover, UN Resolutions 242 and 338 stipulate Israel's withdrawal from it just like from the other occupied territories.

Hence, in every Arab capital he visits, the U.S. envoy should listen to the same words on the Jerusalem issue and sense a united stand toward this issue.

Any solution that ignores the Jeruslaem issue and circumvents it, is a lopsided and incomplete solution that represents a flagrant concession of the most sacred cause and the most important right of the Arab and Islamic nation, in addition to being a concession of a Palestinian rights.

In any case, the U.S. Administration once again pledged to remove obstacles to the resumption of the negotiations and dispatched its envoy Mr. Ross for this purpose. Once again, we will see the extent of the U.S. Administration's commitment to its pledges and promises. We will see the extent of Israel's seriousness and its claimed concern about achieving peace in the region. We will also see the extent of Ross' success in his difficult mission.

Senator Mitchell Invited To Visit, 'See the Facts'

NC0807132093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has invited Senator George Mitchell, the U.S. Senate majority leader, to visit Lebanon. In a message to Senator Mitchell, al-Hariri said he welcomes him and any senator he chooses to visit Lebanon and see the facts—the disarming of militiamen, the unification of the Lebanese Army and the Internal Security Forces, the beginning of the process to return the displaced to their villages in Jabal Lubnan and east Sidon, and the ongoing process to rebuild the state's infrastructure. Al-Hariri stressed freedom of movement and security throughout Lebanon except in the areas under Israeli occupation. He drew the senator's attention to the fact that neither the United States nor any other friendly country sends military aid to Lebanon to (?help) implement the al-Ta'if Accord. He stressed that had it not been for Syrian assistance to the Lebanese Army, it could not have taken on the assigned security tasks, which have contributed greatly to ensuring security and stability in Lebanon.

Israel Retaliates After Forces Attacked in South

PFLP-GC Operation Against Convoy

JN0907104993 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Excerpts] True to their style, the fedayeen of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] today [8 July] carried out a heroic operation in southern Lebanon. The operation resulted in six casualties among the Zionist enemy soldiers. Our correspondent reported that a fierce battle began at 0630 today between PFLP-GC fedayeen heroes and a Zionist convoy composed of two tanks. Our correspondent adds that the heroic fedayeen controlled their target completely after detonating a bomb under the enemy convey near al-Jarmaq in the central area of the occupied southern Lebanon. The fedayeen then waged a battle with the enemy forces using machine guns and antitank missiles.

Our correspondent in southern Lebanon says the PFLP-GC killed two Zionist soldiers and injured three others and reported that fire was seen engulfing an enemy personnel carrier. Despite the fact that the enemy dispatched 100 soldiers to the battle ground, the fedayeen engaged them and completely controlled their target.

At noon today, our correspondent reported that the number of those killed in the attack on the enemy mechanized patrol on the al-Jarmaq-al-'Ayshiyah rose to three and that three others were wounded. [passage omitted]

Answering a question from al-Quds radio on the Zionist enemy radio report about the martyrdom of one of the PFLP-GC fedayeen, a Front spokesman confirmed that the enemy radio report is entirely false.

Center Comes Under Fire

NC0907094093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] The recent threats made by the leaders of the Zionist enemy to the resistance suggest that the Zionist military aggression against the south will be stepped up. The resistance heroes have thrown the enemy and its agents into confusion following the brilliant attacks they waged against the occupation forces. The Zionist threats coincide with a visit to the region by a U.S. team that favors such aggression and follows a certain recommendation, hostile to the Lebanese, made by the U.S. Senate to the U.S. State Department.

But neither threats nor aggression will dissuade the resistance fighters and the Lebanese people from continuing their struggle until the liberation of the land from the occupying enemy.

In this context, and to mark the month of Muharram, the month of martyrdom, the Group of Martyrs Wahbi 'Abdallah Wahbi and Haydar Haydar Ahmad of the Islamic Resistance attacked a center for the Lahdist agents and Zionists in Mazra'at Khallat Khazin near al-'Ayshiyah with rockets and machine gun fire, scoring direct hits and causing casualties among the position's personnel.

Meanwhile, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command yesterday claimed the attack that led to the death of two [Israeli] soldiers and the injury of three others. The Front said that the Jerusalem Martyrs Unit carried out the operation to assert its commitment to armed struggle as a way of liberating Palestine. The front said that the resistance fighters detonated roadside bombs as two Israeli tanks were traveling in the central sector of the occupied strip and then attacked them with machine guns and rockets.

'Violent' Israeli Shelling

NC0907095193 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] According to our correspondent in south Lebanon, the Israeli occupation forces located in al-Zaffatah began at 1030 today a violent and concentrated 155-mm field artillery of Mlita hills, Jabal Safi, the outskirts of Jarju' and 'Ayn bu Siwar, Tallat al-Rafi' on Jabal al-Rayhan, and the woods surrounding the occupation position in Tallat Sujud. Our correspondent also said that the resistance men carried out an operation on the 'Aramta road shortly after 1000 today.

An Islamic Resistance source told our radio that the Martyr Wahbi Wahbi Group at 1030 today attacked an Israeli patrol on the Sujud-al-Rayhan road where fierce clashes occurred between the mujahidin and the hostile patrol members. Meanwhile, the Martyr Haydar Haydar Group attacked the B'ir Kallab position with rockets and machine guns. The assail[illegible] directly hit the bunkers in the position. Immediately [illegible]erwards, Israeli helicopters

flew over the area at low altitude. The Israeli bombardment of towns and villages in the south was continuing when this report was being prepared. The resistance men are returning the fire at enemy and agent positions in the occupied border strip.

We have just received the following report from the editor's desk: According to our correspondent in south Lebanon, a short while ago four Israeli helicopters began raking Jabal al-Rayhan, Mlita hills, and Jabal Safi. In the meantime, Israeli violent artillery barrage of Iqlim al-Tuffah towns and villages is continuing. The Islamic Resistance is returning fire at the Israeli positions in the occupied border strip.

Raid on Jibril 'Terrorist' Bases

TA0907102893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] Israeli helicopters struck at bases of the Ahmad Jibril organization in south Lebanon a short while ago. The Jibril group claimed responsibility for yesterday's attack on Israeli soldiers in which two soldiers were killed and three others wounded. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami says the helicopters struck at targets used by Jibril's men near (Na'mah) south of Beirut. The pilots reported good strikes on the targets, and all helicopters returned safely to Israel. Our reporter adds that there were renewed exchanges of fire this morning between terrorists outside the security zone and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers in the Sujud area of the security zone. No one was reported hurt.

Hizballah Leader Interviewed on Resistance, Peace Talks

Part I

NC0907081593 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 26 Jun 93 pp 8,9

[First part of a two-part interview with Hizballah leader Hasan Nasrallah by Muhammad Baqir Sharri; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Sharri] Your eminence, the region is heading toward many changes. Some people are worried about the political developments that are expected to take place. They are waiting for the agreements with Israel. The negotiations have been going on for a long time but have, for many, already ripened and their implementation has already started even before they have been signed. That is, we observe that some Gulf states have started to normalize ties with Israel. We heard today that thousands of Palestinians are traveling to Jordan to train as policemen for the transitional stage that will start after the signing of the agreement. Implementation has started and the number of policemen required ranges between 10,000 and 30,000. These will take the place of the Israeli Defense Army in suppressing the followers of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]?

[Nasrallah] The mujahidin.

[Sharri] They are now focusing on Hamas, which is receiving more blows than others. By the way, the issue of the [Palestinian] deportees will almost become forgotten. The central question is this: What is the future of the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon if these agreements are signed? Let us be frank as we are going to write this, namely that we are relying on fraternal Syria, which is standing fast and can prolong the negotiations as long as it can. It will be pushed into a tight corner if an agreement is concluded with the Palestinians and another one with Jordan and if they say the declaration of principles is ready and needs only to be signed. [passage omitted] Will the resistance continue after that or will they tell you to give it up in the Lebanese way, that is, do so or else there are people here who are ready to teach you a lesson?

[Nasrallah] Your frankness is good. I would like to stress to you that the picture is not as bleak or black as your question implies.

[Sharri] God willing.

[Nasrallah] There are some points that must be mentioned. Very few people believe that peace [sulh] with the Israeli enemy in any form whatsoever can happen or suppose that this peace would be in the interest of the Arabs and Muslims. When we ask who is making such a peace, they tell us that we do not have any other option, that is, there is an argument that this peace will be sound, the right option, beneficial, and useful and that the other options, even if they exist, are not good or useful. At other times, the argument goes like this: No. We agree with you that there are dangers in the peace as well as fears and negative aspects, but we do not have any other option. In the international situation, the Soviet Union has collapsed, there are regional changes, we had the Desert Storm war, and the Arab situation and regimes are wracked by divisions. This is the situation as it is. Therefore there is no real conviction that peace is positive and in the interest of the Arab and Islamic nation. If there is such a conviction, then it is that of those who have sold themselves to the United States, the great Satan. As to the people, there is no such conviction. If some people are psychologically satisfied with signing peace with Israel, then their condition is like that of the thirsty man who sees a mirage, but they will soon find out that the promised peace is a mere illusion. This is one observation.

A second observation is that the people will not be bound by any peace that the regimes sign under any conditions whatsoever, regardless of whether it will be called an acceptable peace or not. I am not talking just about Hizballah but about all our people in the Arab and Islamic worlds. This is the second point.

The third point is that even if the regimes sign a peace with the Israeli enemy, they will not be able to implement the clauses of this peace that concern these regimes

but not the people. There is the "Camp David" experience in Egypt and there is no need to explain what happened there. The point is that it is true that many Arab regimes are vying to obtain the Israeli-U.S. goodwill, but these regimes are confused and do not have much choice.

It is true that there is a difficult international situation. However, there is also an awakening, a great and overwhelming awakening, at the level of the Islamic people. To describe it as terrorism, extremism, and fanaticism does not diminish its size or importance. Take the so-called violence and fundamentalist terrorism in Algeria for instance. We have our own analysis of the situation. The Islamists in Algeria have absolutely not engaged in violence. They entered all the way into the democratic game. When they won the majority of seats in the first round of elections and it was clear that they would score a similar victory in the second, the military authorities, under the cover of civilians, staged a coup in Algeria. It was the authorities who initiated violence with the Islamists, not the other way around. We may sometimes hear some political or religious figures calling on the Islamists to renounce violence, but the Islamists in Algeria did not start violence in the first place. Their conduct was fully in accordance with the democratic, political, and civilian practices and in line with civilian life. It is true that the Islamists in Algeria resorted to arms because they were faced with a tough choice: either be hanged, imprisoned, killed in the streets, or defend themselves. They chose the military option. [passage omitted]

The Islamic groups or the Islamic movement in Egypt and Algeria and in many Islamic countries are not terrorist organizations. They are an expression of a popular mass movement, an awakening, and a surging will that the regimes are suppressing. Some of these regimes, such as Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia, meet to coordinate their suppression of this movement. This will not change the axiom that says that there is an overwhelming Islamic awakening across the Islamic world. We should take this into account when we talk about the future. With the spread of such an Islamic awakening, the peace that might be signed with the Israelis will not be implemented and will not be carried out on the ground. Its implementation might be imposed at the regimes' level for one, two, or three years, but it will not be the peace that defines the future of the region. It is not a question of Lebanon or whether our resistance will stop or not if peace is signed. The issue is much more than that. We are thinking about the future from this angle and therefore are optimistic. Maybe many people are drawing a bleak picture but we are drawing a different one. We believe that the nation's future is that of these people's choice. We also believe that our nation has much strength, ability, and greatness, which the rulers do not understand, but the revolutionaries do. Some major powers, which are now a source of fear and panic for all the rulers and for some people, will not succeed in consolidating their hegemony over the world in the coming years. They have their own problems and ills and are suffering from diseases and disorders that will move them in the same direction as that of the Soviet Union in the future. Our view is that the future will be different.

Of course, I do not want to be overly optimistic. There is adversity and a harsh and real confrontation. But we believe that no one will be able to contain the level of the awareness and awakening we are seeing in the nation and which we are expecting to see grow. We advise the rulers not to suppress the Islamic movements because their suppression only strengthens them and proves to other people the injustice inflicted on them and therefore this will rally the oppressed and the good people to these Islamic movements. This is why we are looking at the future with optimism. If peace does come about, we will then study how to deal with the conditions that have brought it about. None of our strategies, constants, and principles have changed. We believe that the requisites for all-out resistance across the whole region will be much stronger.

[Sharri] [passage omitted] We must sometimes suppose that the impossible will happen. What will happen if fraternal Syria finds itself in a position that compels it to sign, and then it comes to you and tells you that it had no choice but to sign? What will your position be? You have to make calculations for such a thing. We do not want to sleep on satin sheets; we want to confront the future possibilities.

[Nasrallah] I said that as long as our principles and constants do not change, then one can face the conditions, requisites, and situations. I might have the answers ready then and will tell them to you frankly. There is no need for one to reveal beforehand his ideas and tactics for such a stage. [passage omitted]

Part II

NC0907092193 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 27 Jun 93 pp 6,7

[Second and last part of an interview with Hizballah leader Hasan Nasrallah by Muhammad Baqir Sharri; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Sharri] Hizballah has moved toward openness on the Christian arena. We do not like this terminology and say openness toward other Lebanese citizens with whom we had artificial barriers. We find that this openness has lost some of its momentum. Dialogues were held that ended with your pledge that there will be no Islamic state in Lebanon. Is there no more dynamism for developing this movement?

[Nasrallah] We have been committed to this principle and are still committed to it. We did start the openness. Of course, we are enthusiastic about openness with the Christians, not only with the religious figures but also with all groups, trends, and personalities within specific rules known to us. [passage omitted]

Mubarak, al-Asad Continue Talks, Hold News Conference

Delegations Attend Talks

JN0807155393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak resumed their talks in Latakia in a closed meeting at 1030 today.

At 1140 today, the meeting was joined by members of the Syrian delegation: Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; and members of the Egyptian delegation: Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Culture Minister Faruq Husni, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, under secretary of the foreign ministry and director of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs.

During the two meetings, talks dealt with the situation and developments in the Middle East, the peace process, and the 10 rounds of peace talks held to date.

The two sides reviewed the Arab situation and ways of unifying the Arab effort to support the Arab search for a just, comprehensive peace restoring occupied Arab territories and maintaining Arab rights and dignity.

Presidents Review 'Friendly' Talks

NC0807173693 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1503 GMT 8 Jul 93

[News conference by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad with unidentified reporters in Latakia on 8 July; broadcast in progress—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Asad] ...in his second homeland, or his first; there is no difference. I say that our talks were, as usual, brotherly and friendly talks in which we discussed issues of interest to us and to all Arabs. This time, as in every time, our views were close to identical. Our decision is always to exchange views and consultations, stand firmly and boldly alongside the pan-Arab causes that concern us all, and to contribute positively to international activity in a way that serves the world of today and does not conflict with the interests of the peoples, including the Arab peoples, naturally. Our decision is to meet regularly at different times, as the need arises. Once again I welcome my brother President Mubarak, and welcome you too, brothers.

[Reporter] Your Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad: To what extent has there been progress in the 10th round of talks along the Syrian track, and is the United States performing its role as a full partner in these talks?

[Al-Asad] In fact, as the Syrian delegation has pointed out, there has been no progress. In some terms, there has been some backsliding. Perhaps you have heard the statements of Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, who confirmed this. As for the role of the full partner, the Americans have emphasized this directly to us and in various statements which we have all heard. There has been some U.S. activity, but it has not reflected in the talks or in the positions of the Israeli negotiator.

[Reporter] Your Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak: In light of your contacts with the various parties and after Israel has foiled 10 rounds, do you see any point in continuing the peace process?

[Mubarak] I believe that continuing the negotiations is a fundamental issue. I absolutely would not expect a complicated issue such as the Palestinian issue and the Middle East issue, both of which have been in existence for about 45 years, to be resolved in one, two, or 10 rounds. But we have to continue the negotiations. If there are proposals, we too have many proposals that we could submit in response to the proposals. But to withdraw from the negotiations, as the brother president has stated, would harm the cause. We would be the losers. Brother President Hafiz has stated that although there has been no progress in the past rounds, we will continue the talks, and this is the logical thing to do. Despite the obstacles in negotiations, in the end we have to attain peace. The entire world wants peace. We all want peace. Peace for Syria, peace for all the countries concerned, a solution to the Palestinian issue, and security and safety for the entire region, including Israel, mean security for all of us. I believe negotiation is a very important process.

[Reporter] Mr. President Hafiz al-Asad: There is presently talk about Arab solidarity. I believe that the talks between Your Excellency and His Excellency President Mubarak yesterday might have dealt with this issue. But there are still some clouds in the Arab atmosphere. Your Excellency, to what extent can progress be made in light of current conditions?

[Al-Asad] We did in fact discuss this matter, and we discuss it at every meeting. It will continue to be discussed and acted upon. No incident, regardless of how grave it is, should obstruct the nation's march and tear it apart forever. The Arab situation will get worse without Arab solidarity, and without what we call unity of Arab positions based on joint concepts and, of course, based on learning from the past and from our experiences and tribulations. And if there is no serious and real solidarity within the context of this concept, then the Arab situation will get worse. We do not want this and we cannot let matters proceed on their own. All the Arab countries and rulers should have a positive role that revives fraternal Arab relations and joint Arab efforts that are regarded as the basis for saving the Arab nation from great possible future dangers. We should never live just with the conditions of this narrow period of time that we are now going through, and we should not assess the future through these times. We should look to the future

As to your observation that these dialogues ended with our commitment not to establish an Islamic state, no such commitment was made. In the meetings, we explained our view, which is propagated in the media and not only in inner circles, namely that I, as a Muslim human being and an Islamist, believe that the Islamic system, the Islamic government, and the Islamic state in any society or country are the best and most appropriate. It is even my belief and conviction that these are the only systems that could bring about social justice and happiness on earth and in heaven for the sons of this country. This is a creed I cannot abandon for the sake of a dialogue, civility, political action, or specific political calculations. This creed is part of my religion and thinking and is our course and policy to which we are committed and will remain so. Yes, what we wanted to explain was that we in Lebanon believe that forming and establishing an Islamic government is the real solution, not only for Lebanon but for the whole world.

What we did stress and explain and what we wanted to confront were a number of false accusations, namely that we want to establish an Islamic government or an Islamic state by force, by violence, as Djerejian also said in his recent statements. This is not true because the nature of the Islamic state and the Islamic rule rejects the establishment of such a system, government, and state by force and violence. The Islamic government, the Islamic state, is one that is committed to concepts, rules, and values, hence the government, which is the ruling establishment in any society cannot practice these values and concepts if it does not enjoy real mass support and if does not obtain real popular and mass protection. [passage omitted]

In our Islamic creed here in Lebanon and elsewhere, we believe that the establishment of the Islamic government in any country is the solution but the establishment of the Islamic government in any country must originate from the will and the choice of that people. Therefore this was spoken of in the open message of 1985 and in Hizballah's utterings. So far, we are saying that we believe in and are working for establishing an Islamic system in Lebanon but on the basis of free choice and the people's will and not on the basis of imposing the Islamic system by force on the majority of this people's sons. [passage omitted]

and realize that the danger will be much graver than many of us imagine if we do not rectify the situation. I believe that Arab rulers and citizens, and primarily the media, should focus their attention on this. As you can see, interests play a fundamental role in the world and we should never forget that the feelings of citizens everywhere in the Arab homeland are not ones of satisfaction and contentment with this situation, where the Arab citizen feels he is subject to injustice and persecution. We are of course working, we will work, and we should work in cooperation with other countries and leaders in the world so as not to let anyone in the world feel injustice and persecution, because this will not allow us to live in a stable and calm world which is building the present as well as the future. If the Arabs are not sure that they are not being targeted, then they will never feel stability and consequently, in my view, neither we nor the world will be at ease.

[Reporter] The United States has announced that it intends to implement the principle of full, honest, and neutral partner in the negotiations. The results of this announcement so far are not positive. In view of your relations with the United States, do you believe that it will be serious in applying this idea in the future and that it will in fact be neutral and honest in the negotiations?

[Mubarak] I cannot speak on behalf of the United States. But from our talks with the United States, we can say that it will not exert pressure on any state. It might help in achieving a solution. Help for a solution by a major or superpower like the United States helps the peace process.

[Reporter] In light of President Hafiz al-Asad's remarks about a regression in the U.S. position regarding the peace process, do you foresee a role for Egypt to play with the United States and did you talk about this role in your meeting with his excellency the president?

[Al-Asad] [laughing] In fact I have not talked about the U.S. role, neither in terms of regression nor of progress. I was talking about the world situation in general. As for the United States' offer or talk about the role of the full partner, I have said that the United States has reiterated this and done something in this regard. But we have not seen this activity reflected in the Israeli position and resulting in progress in the talks. In fact we cannot—we want to be fair regardless of our opinion—so far we cannot say that the United States, as far as the role of full partner is concerned, does not intend to do something. We have nothing to support this view, if we were to say it. They always emphasize this point, both in correspondence or during meetings, and stress their seriousness. We have to wait. We have to wait. We cannot judge things so quickly because this talk about the role of full partner is recent.

Press Highlights Summit

JN0907085293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Jul 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Latakia Summit And Arab Calculations," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The Latakia summit between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Husni Mubarak has reinforced the Arab position on peace, and confirmed that the Arabs have never been aggressors. Therefore, they did not obstruct the peace process and will never do so.

The paper stresses: The talks, which were held between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak, strengthen Syria's policy. President al-Asad's continued concentration on Arab solidarity constitutes a strategy in this country's policy in light of the current international situation where flattery and bias toward Israel are increasing.

AL-BA'TH touches on the use of double standards in dealing with world issues. It refers to the industrialized states summit's call on the Arabs to end the boycott on Israel without asking Israel to implement UN resolutions.

The paper says: This would strengthen Israeli intransigence and further convinced the Arabs that Israeli intransigence stems from the lack of pressures on it by influential states.

AL-BA'TH adds: In light of this situation, Syria stresses the need to create an Arab situation that guarantees right and force, and that is, at the same time, committed to world resolutions guaranteeing right and peace in the region.

Under the headline "The Summit, The Hope," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: It is natural that the Latakia summit between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Husni Mubarak be extremely important, especially since this is the nature and characteristic of all summits between the two fraternal countries.

The paper notes: The nature of the times, new international developments, and their repercussions on the Arab situation, in addition to the pivotal issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict, its developments, and the stumbling peace process, are all issues that brought about this meeting. They necessitate the continuation of cooperation, coordination, and consultation between Syria and Egypt on the highest level with the objective of defining stands, formulating joint concepts, and creating the right mechanism to confront and deter threats to the nation, the foremost of which is the existing Israeli defiance, and all forms of expansion, aggression, and settlements.

AL-THAWRAH says: This meeting between Egypt and Syria will bceome another part of their understanding and cooperation throughout history that has always been in favor of all Arabs, and the fortress of the nation, the

central force, and the strategic weight that helps the nation to confront all aggressors, invaders, and all forms of plots.

AL-THAWRAH says: Syrian-Egyptian cooperation and coordination helps to bolster optimism over this nation's ability to wrest its rights and to safeguard its existence.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The Latakia summit between al-Asad and Mubarak is a summit that shows adherence to pan-Arab rights.

PLO's Qaddumi Arrives, Makes Statement 8 Jul

JN0807210093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Damascus this evening. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; the assistant to the chief of the protocol desk at the Foreign Ministry; and the director of the PLO office in Damascus.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Qaddumi expressed his pleasure in coming to Syria, his second home. He said: Meeting with the brothers in Syria has always been one of our objectives, because the interests are the same and the cause is the same. After every round of peace talks, an assessment and a full study of that round should be made in every detail, to prepare for the next stage. We also want to present to the brothers in Syria the details we have about this round and discuss issues of mutual interest.

Qaddumi added: At the current stage, Syria plays an important central role in the peace process. Since the new U.S. Administration is in power, we should fully acquaint it with the serious Arab positions on the peace process. The United States should be a full and honest partner.

Commentaries View U.S. Full Partner Role in Peace Talks

Failure To Bridge Gap in Talks Criticized

JN0607154993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: With the Washington Middle East peace talks ending so frustratingly and inconclusively on all tracks, the peace process has hit such an impasse that only bold U.S. and international moves can change things. Any such moves will have to put UN resolutions and conventions before Israel's territorial designs.

Anyone with any regard for truth and peace in the Middle East will come to the conclusion that Israel is adopting an insincere attitude toward the ongoing peace efforts and going out of its way to scuttle the 20-month peace talks. There is no escaping the conclusion either that Israel wants to skirt the peace process terms of reference, envisaging its pullout of the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights.

Not coincidentally, Israeli negotiators have, at every round of the peace talks, put on the table a string of security issues, never once uttering a single word about a total withdrawal. They tie in peace with security, or peace with occupation, viewing continued occupation as a surefire guarantee for their perceived security. They thus strip the land-for-peace formula—the core of the U.S. initiative and UN Security Council resolutions—of its keynote: territory. Israel wants both territory and peace and is out to tie Arabs down with pacts, restrictions, and security arrangements without giving anything in return. Israel is acting as if the Arabs went to Washington just to relinquish their territories and rights.

Israel's chicanery comes as no surprise to the Arabs; they have had enough experience of Zionist tactics, expansionist plots, and criminal acts that run counter to the most basic human rights and rules of international law. The ruling Labor Party initiated the settlement activity in the occupied territories, the Likud bloc followed up by expanding the settlement network. Indeed, Yitzhaq Rabin, who had pledged himself to a cessation of settlement activity and moving the peace process forward, has set aside a considerable portion of the U.S-guaranteed loans for over 10,000 new housing units in the occupied territories that can house 50,000 settlers. We now hear Rabin stating virtually every day that the Israeli military will not vacate the Golan Heights, Jerusalem will never figure at the negotiating table, and the settlements are there to stay and that they will remain under Israeli sovereignty.

The bottom line is: Rabin wants the Arabs to give him peace and their territory. He is proposing solutions that hardly merit the name—arrangements that recall those the colonialist powers forced on the Arabs and that later unravelled under the weight of popular Arab resistance.

If the Israelis are acting under the illusion that they can have both peace and territory, the United States is supposed to move and fill in the Tel Aviv rulers on the requirements of the just and comprehensive settlement that the world is awaiting. The United States should also tell Israeli leaders that they cannot possibly go on violating UN Security Council resolutions and UN conventions and using Washington to cover their conduct. The United States is now all too aware of the Arab stand; it took it upon itself to sponsor the peace process. The Unites States bears a dual and onerous responsibility: It is accountable to an international community that is now calling Washington's credibility into question on account of its applying double standards in international relations. The United States is also accountable to the Arabs, more particularly to the Palestinians, who have been subjected to a most terrible form of aggression—settlements that, aided by force and terror, steal and depopulate territory.

The Unites States cannot be let off the hook by contending that the gap between the sides is too wide for it to do anything about it and that while it can build bridges across rivers it cannot build them across oceans. If the gap is too wide, it is because Israel has refused to be bound by any UN resolutions. If it were not for the backing Israel has received over the years from successive U.S. Administrations and the feeling in Tel Aviv that Washington will not go so far as to pressure it into heeding international law, the Israeli arrogance, stubbornness, and rebelliousness would not have reached the levels they have.

If the Washington talks should collapse, not only will a once-in-a-life-time opportunity to make peace have been missed; the Middle East region will then teeter on the brink of catastrophe. Surely, the United States has no interest in the region erupting in an explosion thanks to Israel's reprehensible ambitions.

U.S. 'Seriousness' Noted

JN0807150193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen. To a great extent, the future of the 20-month negotiating process in Washington depends on the outcome of the tour of the head and senior members of the U.S. team in charge of following up the peace process in the region. The new U.S. effort, which begins with the arrival of the U.S. team in the region today, has been defined as an attempt to bridge the gap between the negotiating parties. To some extent, this effort is a temporary, practical alternative during the current recess in the negotiating process between the concerned parties. This is especially true in light of the fruitless and disappointing outcome of 10th round of negotiations, which left a large question mark hanging over the possibility of continuing the negotiating process indefinitely in such a futile manner after the example of the 10 rounds of negotiations held so far.

Since its assumption of power, the current U.S. Administration has eagerly affirmed an interest in playing an effective and influential role in the peace process. It has adopted a full partner role. It attempted to manifest this role by intervening in the negotiations at the end of the ninth round. Afterward, to consolidate such a role, it submitted an unofficial paper on the Palestinian-Israeli track of talks in the 10th round to bridge differences between the two sides. Irrespective of the content of this role and the way it was manifested—which did not satisfy the Palestinian delegation, the first Arab party to test the effectiveness of the U.S. manifestation of the full-partner role—in reality, it reflected the U.S. Administration's seriousness about playing an active and effective role in the peaceful negotiating process.

Despite occasional statements warning that their patience has limits, U.S. officials say that the remaining six months of this year will see additional U.S. activity and effectiveness with regard to the peace process in order to reach results on the road to peace by the beginning of 1994. Everyone remembers that the growing effectiveness of the U.S. role in the negotiating process was welcomed, especially on the assumption that such a role will be that of a fair broker, a catalyst, a full, neutral partner, and other similar concepts. The Arabs wish these would be translated into reality.

Among the reasons for the Arab welcome for such an effective U.S. role in the peace process is the Arab side's uncertainty about the seriousness and sincerity of Israeli intentions about peace. Everybody knows Israel objected to any role by any international party, including Washington, in the negotiating process. There is no need to go into the details about Israel's objection to any effective UN, European, or any other international role in the peace process since it was launched in Madrid.

In light of this Arab welcome of the U.S. role, and in view of the previous Israeli rejection of such a role, the Arabs expected and continue to expect a great deal from increased U.S. effectiveness in the negotiating process. As for the Israeli side, it has changed its previous rejection of a role by any other party in the direct negotiations. Thus, it welcomed the new U.S. role in negotiating process in the hope that such a U.S. role would help it force the Arab parties to change their stands on the negotiating process, which is based on the principles of the peace process, particularly UN resolutions and the land-for-peace formula. The first manifestation of the U.S. full-partner role on the Palestinian-Israeli track in the negotiating process fell short of assuring other Arab parties. In fact, it raised fears that the Israeli gamble on exploiting the U.S. role to pressure the Arabs might have been successful.

Hence, as the head and senior members of the U.S. team following up the peace process arrive in the region to intensify efforts to bridge differences, the basic, primary Arab demand for the success of these efforts is consideration of a fair, neutral U.S. role and to direct the pressure on the party that has obstructedg any progress in the peace process for over one and one-half years. This obstruction has been caused by this party's refusal to abide by the resolutions on which the peace process is based and its attempt to evade any of its obligations in accordance with these resolutions and in accordance with the formula on which the peace process is based, which is the land-for-peace formula.

When the basis of the U.S. efforts falls in this context, the Americans will undoubtedly receive every cooperation from the Arab parties, which are concerned in word and deed about a just, comprehensive peace in our region.

Afghanistan

Defense Ministry Leadership Discusses Developments

LD0807173593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] The Ministry of Defense central headquarters leadership of the Islamic State of Afghanistan met today to discuss recent developments in the country and the implementation of the decisions made by jehadi leaders in Jalalabad.

A BIA military correspondent reported that in today's session the head of political affairs of the Army, esteemed Lieutenant General Mohammad Yunos Qanuni spoke about the latter issue, and said: As a result of decisions made by the jehadi leaders in Jalalabad, separate commissions were formed heading the Defense and Home Affairs Ministries to observe the cease-fire, and it was decided that two commanders would be elected from all provinces after two months to come to Kabul to select the defense and home affairs ministers. Under this decision the minister of defense resigned his post; a cease-fire was declared and the commissions undertook to implement the articles of the Jalalabad agreements.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan considers itself duty-bound to implement all conditions so that the people are spared the harm of further war and destruction and are able to live in an atmosphere of peace and brotherhood. Unfortunately, however, some groups close their eyes to this fact and fire missiles on different parts of the city day and night. They openly violate the cease-fire and threaten the lives of innocent residents of Kabul city.

We ask the relevant sides to take initiatives in implementing the Jalalabad agreements and to not let the Afghan people drown in their own blood. Afghan refugees abroad, who are impatiently awaiting the return of peace so that they can return to their country, should be able to enjoy this peace so they can take part in the reconstruction of their country.

Four Injured in Missile Attack on Kabul

LD0807162793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Three missiles were fired at Kabul city today. A responsible source from Kabul garrison told a BIA military correspondent that the missiles were fired from south of the city and hit ward No. 10. Four of our innocent compatriots were injured. The missiles inflicted heavy material losses.

Bangladesh

Commerce Minister Discusses Trade Imbalance

BK0707162893 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Jun 93 p 7

[Text] Country's trade imbalance stood at Tk. [taka] 4,630.50 crore in first nine months of this (1992-93) fiscal year, the Commerce Minister informed parliament on Monday, reports UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH].

Replying to Abu Lais Md. Mobin Chowdhury, JP [Jatiya Party], Commerce Minister M.K. Anwar said the highest trade imbalance (in 1991-92) was Tk. 922.98 crore with Singapore. The imbalance was Tk. 852.42 crore with India, and Tk. 15.68 crore with Bhutan, he added.

The minister said government has taken certain steps to bring down the trade imbalance with different countries. This includes active support to the exporters.

Government also adopted a long term (1992-2000) export strategy aimed at helping the exporters to make a long term export plan, he added.

Anwar told Sheikh Harunur Rashid, AL [Awami League], that the country's trade ratio with India was import 100: export 3.31 during 1992-93 fiscal.

During the period, Bangladesh has imported goods worth Tk. 482.80 crore from India through Benapole Land Customs till April 30 against its export worth Tk. 15.80 crore, the minister said replying to Moulana Mohammad Sakhawat Hossain, Jamaat.

Replying to a question from Nawab Ali Abbas Khan, JP, Anwar said that Bangladesh imported eggs worth Tk. 6.57 crore from India during 10 months of 1992-93 fiscal.

The Commerce Minister told Rashed Khan Menon, Workers Party, that Bangladesh could not export Jamdani saree to India because of high duty on imported saree by India. But he added that India recently announced withdrawal of duty on imported Jamdani saree from Bangladesh.

Talks With Tribal Insurgents Scheduled for 14 Jul

BK0807112493 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 5 Jul 93 p 1

[By Torun Kumar Bhattacharya]

[Text] The fourth round of talks between the Bangladesh government committee and the Chittagong Hill Tracts [CHT] People's Solidarity Council aimed at finding a solution to the 15-year-old CHT problem will be held on 14 July. The council is the political wing of the CHT tribal insurgents popularly known as the Shanti Bahini.

The government committee has sent a special emissary to the Solidarity Council's high command with a letter proposing the meeting.

It may be mentioned that during the two sides' third round of talks held at the CHT's Khagrachari District circuit house on 22 May an agreement was reached to meet again before 15 July. During this meeting the council agreed to extend the cease-fire until 31 August.

It has been learned from a reliable source that the members of the government committee held a meeting at the residence of Communications Minister Oli Ahmed on 1 July to review the demands of the People's Solidarity Council. The committee is likely to meet again either on 8 or 10 July to make a decision in this regard.

Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, member of Parliament from the CHT's Khagrachari District, has said that all-out efforts are being made to make the 14 July meeting a success. He has expressed the hope that an accord may be reached during this meeting.

Hangshadhajj Chakma, convenor of the CHT liaison committee, told reporters that no new agenda for the talks has been given either by the government committee or by the CHT council. But he said that apart from the council's five-point demands, talks will be held on other issues including regional autonomy, repatriation of Chakma refugees, land surveys, cease-fire violations, and release of detained tribal members.

India

Rao, Yeltsin Exchange Letters on Cryogenic Engine Deal

BK0907034293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, have exchanged letters on the cryogenic rocket engine deal and the proposed agreement on space research, among others. This follows the recent pressure on both the countries from industrialized nations to adhere to certain stipulations made by them on the two subjects. Official sources in New Delhi said the main thrust of the exchange of letters was on how to meet the pressure without compromising the continuity of India-Russian cooperation.

India and Russia are to sign an agreement next month on cooperation in space research. The Russian Television said last night that the visiting ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] chief, Professor U.R. Rao, and the Russian deputy prime minister, Mr. Aleksandr Shokhin, have signed a protocol to this effect.

Editorial Deplores U.S. Missile Strike on Baghdad

BK0807142693 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 29 Jun 93 p 11

[Editorial: "An Overkill"]

[Text] The Security Council endorsement notwithstanding, the United States has to do some explaining for the way it has mauled Iraq, killing civilians in the name of retaliation against Baghdad's conspiracy to assassinate former President George Bush. As it happened, Washington became both the prosecutor and the judge to proclaim Iraq guilty and punish it. It is nobody's case that there could be no conspiracy to kill a former President, especially one like Mr. Bush whose conduct of the Gulf War has not been without controversy, particularly for the way the US-led allied forces pursued their anti-Saddam Husayn campaign even after Kuwait had been liberated. Even a staunch Arab ally of the US like Egypt has felt constrained to comment that no UN resolutions seemed to sanction the US missile attack. The fairly adverse reaction Washington's action has caused in the Muslim world is thus a development which might cost Washington dearly. The suddenness of the missile attack and the laboured US argument may cause misgivings that there has been a return of the Rambo in the US. Realpolitik apart, were this perception to seize minds around the world, the eventual diplomatic cost for Washington to bear to salvage its goodwill would be heavy.

It is bound to be asked whether the Tomahawk response was the best and only one that the US could make even if its claim of a conspiracy to kill Mr. Bush was proved right. Washington could have, in the first place, moved the Security Council for a mandate to give Iraq what was its due for the crime. It has now killed a number of innocent civilians, including women and children, as punishment for a foiled plan to kill Mr. Bush who, by the grace of God, is alive and kicking two months later. President Bill Clinton's justification for the American action is likely to evoke a sense of disgust even in those parts of the world where President Saddam has been held responsible for Iraq's fate. The US certainly won the Gulf War, but apparently it does not know how to digest its victory. It is unfortunate that Mr. Clinton should invoke the ideals of American Revolution to kill Iraqi children, and virtually proclaim that only the US has a right to tread on others. Some analysts have suggested that Mr. Clinton decided to hit out at Mr. Saddam Husayn to reverse his declining popularity graph. Others are trying to find a link between the missile attack and Iraqi military manoeuvres around the no-fly zone in the southern part of the country. It does appear that there is more to the new US attack on Iraq than a possible plan to kill Mr. Bush. Next few weeks may see the unfolding of whatever aims Washington might have set for itself.

Government To Close, Inspect All Nuclear Power Plants

BK0807160693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0849 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] New Delhi, July 8 (AFP)—The Indian Government Thursday [8 July] ordered the temporary closure and inspection of all atomic power stations after investigating a major fire in one of them four months ago.

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) asked the Nuclear Power Corporation (NPC) to shut the seven stations for "a thorough inspection of the turbines and generators and their associated components."

The AERB, a watchdog agency, said this was being done "as matter of abundant caution" in the light of deficiencies revealed by the investigation into the blaze at the Narora atomic reactor in Uttar Pradesh State on March 31.

The probe said the Narora fire was caused by a rare combination of "fatigue failure" of two steam turbine blades and "deficiencies in the cabling system", resulting in the loss of electric power supply.

Experts also said that the total loss of power and blackout at Narora could have been avoided if the AERB's earlier recommendations to segregate cables and provide fire barrriers had been followed.

The AERB said it was asking the NPC to undertake inspection of other pressurised heavy water reactor stations in the country to avoid a repetition of a Narora-type accident.

India has seven nuclear power plants and seven more are under construction. Atomic energy accounts for nearly three percent of India's power generation.

The AERB had described the Narora fire as the "most serious event" in India's nuclear programme, rating it as a three on an international scale of one to seven.

Level seven denotes an accident of the magnitude of the Chernobyl disaster. The rating given to the Narora fire made it an event in which "a further failure of safety systems could lead to accident conditions."

Government Prepared for Cutoff of French Nuclear Fuel

BK0807161093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1303 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] New Delhi, July 8 (AFP)—India is ready to face a cutoff of French nuclear fuel supplies that have kept its Tarapur Atomic Power Station running for the past 10 years, officials said Thursday [8 July].

"We do not have any hopes on French fuel any more as there is no revival of a contract," said S.K. Chatterjee, managing director of the Nuclear Power Corp [NPC]. "The NPC is ready to face it," the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA quoted Chatterjee as saying in Bombay.

He added that the power station had received its last consignment from France earlier this year and that it had enough nuclear fuel to keep running until 1997. The delivery was the last under the contract.

Paris is to stop low-enriched uranium supplies to the Tarapur plant in Maharashtra State when a 10-year agreement expires in October.

The French move is in response to India's refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which New Delhi says discriminates between nuclear haves and have-nots.

The Indian Government has resisted Western pressure to accept full-scale safeguards prescribed by the treaty, saying there was no question of it bowing to a discriminatory regime.

India exploded a nuclear device in 1974. It claims that its nuclear programme has no military applications and is entirely geared towards meeting its power generation needs.

Objections Raised to Pakistani Bunkers at Border Talks

BK0707162293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1400 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] New Delhi, July 7 (AFP)—India has objected to Pakistan digging bunkers on the India-Pakistan border and has expressed concern that Pakistan is training and helping armed terrorists cross into India, the Press Trust of India said Wednesday [7 July].

The news agency, quoting a Border Security Force (BSF) statement, said the objections were conveyed to Pakistani officials during a bi-annual meeting of security forces from the two countries in Lahore, Pakistan, on July 5 and 6.

However, Major General Safdar Ali Khan, director general of the Pakistan Rangers, assured full cooperation in maintaining peace at the border, the agency said.

The Indian delegation was led by Ashok Bhandari, inspector general of the BSF.

India has accused Pakistan of arming and training separatists in Punjab and Kashmir, a charge that Islamabad has denied.

The two countries have fought three wars since achieving independence from Britain in 1947.

Government Rejects Pakistani Protest Over Expedition

BK0807040093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] India has rejected a protest lodged by Pakistan on the joint Indo-Nepalese mountaineering expedition to Mount (Aktash) located southwest of the Karakoram Pass. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi yesterday that the area is an integral part of Jammu and Kashmir and India has regularly been sending mountaineering expeditions there.

Council on Trade With Bangladesh To Set Up Joint Ventures

BK0707154093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] The first meeting of the Bangladesh-India Joint Trade Council held in New Delhi has decided to establish joint ventures and technical cooperation in 18 areas of mutual interest. The council identified petrochemicals, urea plants, and the newsprint sector as some areas of cooperation. For joint ventures in setting up industries, it identified food and fish processing, electronics, and information technology. The two sides also noted that there is scope for transfer of technology in jute, tea, cotton, and other cash crops.

Court Refuses To Continue Ban on Hindu Militant Groups

BK0507132293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] The Supreme Court has declined to stay the judgment of the Bari Tribunal which quashed the notifications by the Center banning the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the Bajrang Dal [rightwing Hindu militant organizations]. The stay was declined by the vacation judge, Mr. Justice M.P. Singh, today while issuing notices on two special leave petitions filed by the center challenging the 6 June order of the tribunal. The court, while declining to stay the operation of the impugned judgment, said that no prima facie case had been made out.

'Dreaded Militant' Killed in Punjab Clash

BK0807041093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] In Punjab, a dreaded militant, Gurdiyal Singh alias Fauji, was killed in an encounter with security forces at village Kare in Batala area early this morning. The Batala police chief told our correspondent that Fauji, a self-styled chief of a militant organization, was responsible for over 200 killings in Punjab and Jammu area.

Iran

Musavi-Ardebili Views West's Accusations on Weapons, Terrorism

LD0907140793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardebili in Tehran on 9 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] As we all know, at the present time we are at the stage of reconstruction, which does not just mean reconstruction of what has been damaged in the course of the war [with Iraq]. It also does not simply mean reconstructing any damage caused by the revolution. Of course the revolution did cause some damage, and this needs to be dealt with.

The kind of reconstruction which at present is necessary in our country should be viewed in its broadest sense. Our problems here are numerous, and we should all roll our sleeves up and try to solve them. [passage omitted]

We are faced with a multitude of problems. Our most important problem in this country, however, is that others harass us.

Ever since it was decided that America should become the leader of the world, that is, since the dismantling of the Soviet Union, the way has been paved for them [the West]. They create a new excuse every day. One day they say: Iran! We advise you to join the world peace. As if, with all our present problems, we seek war in the world. As if we are warmongers, while the gentlemen are the champions of peace.

They invite us to join them and become peace-seekers in the world. We know the meaning of this. This implies that we should no longer say death to Israel and that we should let the Arabs make peace with Israel so that the rights of these oppressed people of history [the Palestinians] may altogether vanish for ever and so that Israel can live in this world with total peace of mind. [audience chants: Down with America; Down with Israel]

Please allow me. Please excuse me—down with Israel, of course—but I do not have a great deal of time. I have only a few minutes left, and I wish to finish as soon as possible.

One day they tell us that we are seeking weapons of mass destruction all over the world. What kind of thing is that to say? Good for you! We swear to God that we are not, come and see for yourselves that we are not. They say: No, you are right that we came and found no evidence, but you are. They have been negotiating among themselves for a long time, and they have still not reduced their underground nuclear tests. What kind of distribution is that? That we should not even have a single nuclear station to produce electricity just because it does

not please those gentlemen, but they themselves should have weapons by which they can bring about the destruction of the whole world. Why is that? Are they any wiser than us? Are they more religious? Do they have more feelings than we do? Moreover, we are saying that we are not [seeking weapons of mass destruction]. They openly say that they are, and they also continue to accuse us.

Another day, they tell us: You should stop supporting terrorism. Does that mean that we support terrorism? A curse upon terrorism. What is terrorism? Terrorism is against our religion; it is against our belief. What is terror? A day later, they come and say: If you want to join world peace, you should recognize Israel. That is not possible. They say: If you say it is not possible, then you are responsible for what is going to happen to you. We have realized that if a person takes a step backward, they punch him on the chest so that he falls back another 10 steps.

We have seen the era of the Pahlavi's rule. They had dictated what kind of hat or clothes we should wear. They controlled our mosques. They controlled our our prayer and mourning meetings. They said: When we tell you not to do something, you should not do it.

Then they go as far as saying that we should not support the Lebanese Hizballah because they are terrorists and that they should be eliminated. We also should give up being fundamentalists, which means we should give up our system and our objectives. Don't they understand why we offered so many martyrs, why so much blood was shed, why so many people became homeless, and why so much misery was suffered by us? What was the imposed war for? Why should we give up all that? Because Mr. Clinton wants to lead the world. They want world leadership for him, and that is what they are seeking. They see us as the guilty ones.

We have requests of you. We say, in the name of religion, conscience, humanity—I am not saying God, he says I do not believe—in the name of all of that, do not tie the hands of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina behind their backs. Give them the right to defend themselves. You tell their enemy to hit them, and he does. Let them defend their lives and honor. Are we guilty?

We ask you not to give so much support to Israel. The Palestinians are human beings. They have rights. They have wives and children. Let them defend themselves, too. We say: Let those people you have thrown out return to their homes.

We say: Do not support so much killing in Egypt and Algeria. Do not encourage those governments to slaughter the people like sheep. We say: Do not give so much freedom to Armenia to do so much harm to the Muslims and Shiites of Azerbaijan. We say: Do not allow so many crimes in Kashmir.

If you are the leaders of the world, all that is valid. Is our request correct, or is yours? You say: Join us. What does that mean? It means you take the side of the oppressor, and we that of the oppressed. You support the strong, and we support the weak. You support the aggressor, and we support those with violated rights. Then we are guilty and subject to prosecution, and you have a clear conscience in the world. Why is that? It is because you have power.

We do not accept that principle. The use of force is not right. It is not right that whoever is powerful says the right things, that his way is right, his morals are correct, and what he says is true. That is not so. Force and justice are on opposite poles. Wherever there is force, there is no justice. Wherever there is justice, there is no force.

That is what every person in Iran who has staged the revolution, struggled, fought a holy war, and sacrificed his life says from the bottom of his heart. [passage omitted]

[Tehran IRNA in English at 1203 GMT on 9 July, in a Tehran-datelined report, carries the following on the Tehran Friday sermons: "A prominent alim here Friday refuted as baseless the accusations leveled by the U.S and world arrogance against Iran and said the crimes perpetrated by the U.S. in various parts of the world, such as Somalia and Iraq, were on the rise. Addressing a Friday prayer gathering in Tehran, Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardebili also termed as 'vicious' a call by the world's seven major industrialized countries for Iran's contribution to world peace and security. 'By making such a plea, they intend to brand Iran as a war monger and to persuade us to back down from our revolutionary principles, namely our support for the oppressed of the world,' the ayatollah said. Brushing aside the West's 'baseless and unfounded' allegations that Iran was trying to acquire arms of mass destruction, Ardebili said such charges were raised by countries where atomic bombs were still tested and which were well aware of faslehood of their accusations. He deplored the West for accusing Iran of supporting terrorism, saying 'Iran's stance that the West should not back Israel and other governments suppressing their peoples is not support for terrorism but rather is the cause and ideal of the Iranian people.' Addressing the countries accusing Iran of supporting terrorism, the ayatollah said 'our demand from those countries is that for the sake of humanity they stop putting pressure on Muslims in the oppressed countries so that they can defend themselves and vindicate their rights.'

["Elsewhere in his sermons, the substitute Friday prayer leader of Tehran said that fundamentalism was a term used by the U.S. and arrogant world to humiliate Muslims. 'Islamists comply with the divine rulings and instructions in their routine life and social activities,' Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili made it clear."]

Va'ezi on Readiness To Assist Peace Efforts in Bosnia

NC0907053693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] Mahmud Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for Europe and the United States, met with Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic in Zagreb yesterday. During this meeting, Va'ezi expressed deep concern over the Croats' conflicts with the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and called for immediate halting of these clashes. Stressing the need for preserving the unity and territorial integrity of Bosnia- Herzegovina, Va'ezi expressed Iran's readiness for any type of effort aimed at establishing peace in that country.

The Croatian foreign minister thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its stance and said: We do not want Bosnia-Herzegovina to be dismembered and we are using our influence to end the war.

Navy Denies Detaining Kuwaiti Fishing Boats in Jun

LD0807162193 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—The ideological and political organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army here today denied a report by a Kuwaiti daily claiming that Iranian naval units had detained three Kuwaiti fishing trawlers last month.

"No operations have been carried out by the Navy in this regard," the organization told IRNA in reply to the Kuwaiti daily AL-QABAS which printed the report last Sunday.

The daily also alleged that Iranian forces detained five small fishing boats east of the Qoeh-90 island in the Kuwaiti territorial waters.

According to the International Marine Law, only the fishermen who trespass the fishing zone of another country for fishing will be detained and their equipment seized for further legal procedures, said the organization.

It added that similar procedures have so far been exercised by other Persian Gulf countries concerning the fishermen who violate the International Marine Law.

Egyptian Shaykh's Arrest Termed 'Dubious' Tactic

NC0907064993 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 5 Jul 93 p 2

[Editorial: "The Shaykh's Arrest"]

[Text] After months of propaganda aimed at preparing the public opinion, the U.S. police finally arrested on Friday [2 July] Shaykh 'Umar Abd-al-Rahman, the Egyptian cleric now residing in America for alleged support of terrorist activities.

Having failed to produce any substantiating evidence in connection with the charges, the American authorities have unearthed a previous trial case involving Shaykh 'Umar for unauthorized residence in the United States.

According to the American laws people against whom charges have been leveled by the government of the U.S. can be imprisoned pending their trial.

It is quite obvious that Shaykh 'Umar's arrest by the American authorities is in fact related to the American foreign policy, and is not really a local, legal issue.

The U.S. and the West are facing the growing Islamic tendency among the peoples of the Middle East and Northern Africa. And one of the weakest links in the chain of the governments related to the U.S. which are still in power is the regime of Husni Mubarak in Egypt.

Mubarak's regime is moving in several directions in his attempt to curb the growth of the Islamic movement in Egypt.

Among their oldest tactics in this connection is to relate the growing Islamic movement to the influence of other countries including Iran.

Then they started extensive propaganda about the presence of Shaykh 'Umar and the freedom he enjoys in propagating Islamic ideas and despatching tape-recorded messages to Egypt. But all of the above strategies have proved to be inefficacious and so Egypt and the U.S. have reverted to the old tactic of accusing the Islamic groups of terrorism and violence.

These are really baseless charges which should actually be leveled against those regimes.

The Islamic groups have no need to resort to violence or terrorism. They enjoy widespread support and influence among the people, which accords them civil and popular legitimacy. And this makes it unnecessary for them to engage in violent activities which could be used as legal and propaganda weapons against them.

In fact the Egyptian and the Algerian regimes with green lights from their Western allies are practicing the most brutal types of violence and torture against their peoples.

And now that even such inhuman methods have proved to be inefficacious, the U.S. government has stepped in with dubious legal tactics in the hope of creating obstacles for the onward march of the Islamic movement of the Egyptian people.

Iraqi People Called Victims of 'Political Chess'

LD0807144093 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—The morning English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' here Thursday editorialized on

the situation in Iraq and said the Iraqi people have become the "greatest victim in the political chess between Baghdad and Washington." The paper said at a time when the Iraqi people are reportedly living under extremely poor economic conditions, the country has virtually been turned into a test case for the much publicized American leaders' new world order.

It recalled the allied forces' attack on Saddam Husayn, about two years ago, and the fact that America suddenly decided to stop all war operations against the Baghdad leaders. it said in fact the American leaders realizing that their interests in the region would best be served if Saddam Husayn remained in power, forestalled the fall of the political power into the popular forces.

The daily pointed to the situation as a "political chess" between Baghdad and Washington, and added, on the one hand the Iraqi poeple "have to live under the oppressive rule of the bloodthirsty leaders who who been sustained in power by the help of the Americans and on the other hand they have to suffer silently as they are used as guinea pigs on which the U.S. puts to test all sorts of modern and highly destructive weapons."

Referring to the last week's missile attack of America on Iraq which killed several Iraqi civilians, as the latest of such tests, it said "if the United States is really opposed to the ruling Iraqi regime, it should have attacked the headquarters of the Iraqi rulers instead of directing its attack on the homes of defenseless civilian people."

The Iraqi people, who possessed the second largest energy reserve in the world, are actually victims of a gross injustice on the part of the international community, said the paper. "Instead of being able to use their potential oil incomes to build their future the Iraqi people have to bear the double evils of an oppressive, unpopular regime, and the international bullying and tyranny of a superpower," it concluded.

Oil Ministry Denies Overproduction in June

LD0807164193 Tehran IRNA in English 1549 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—The Oil Ministry here today announced that Iran's oil production ceiling was less than 3.340 million bpd [barrels per day] in June as per its OPEC quota.

The ministry in a statement said some media had reported overproduction by Iran in the said month due to wrong information and misinterpretation of the domestic consumptions.

'Insurgent' Gang Reported Eliminated in South

LD0907104893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] A band of insurgents who were engaged in banditry and drug trafficking in Hormozgan, Kerman, and Sistan va Baluchestan Provinces has been destroyed.

According to Central News Unit's report from the Persian Gulf center, the director general of the intelligence office of Hormozgan Province took part in an interview with correspondents, and made some comments in connection with the above news. He said: After being informed that the armed bandits have been undermining security in the area, the personnel of this office, with the cooperation of Kerman Province's intelligence office, carried out a brave operation. They attacked the hideout of Mojtaba Rahbar, known as Tarzan, and destroyed the band. In the course of that operation, all the band members were killed. The operation also led to a number of weapons being confiscated.

According to this report, the insurgent members of this band were engaged in trafficking tens of tonnes of narcotics, as well as committing armed robbery and creating fear and terror in some parts of Hormozgan and Kerman Provinces.

Pakistan

Government Deploys Troops To Prepare for 'Long March'

BK0807101693 Islamabad THE NATION in English 8 Jul 93 p 16

[Text] Lahore—The Federal Government has decided to call in 3,000 personnel of Rangers to Islamabad as well as to cancel leaves of the Islamabad Police while directing both the forces to remain prepared to crush the expected Long March of the APC [All Party Conference].

Informed sources disclosed on Tuesday [13 July] that Rangers personnel would be deputed around Islamabad Airport, Islamabad Highway and at exit and entry points of the Capital City like Faizabad, Tarnol, Golra, Carriage Factory, Tokri Chowk, sectors I-9, I-10 while the Islamabad police will patrol the City to avert any eventually.

The DG [Director General] Rangers, IG [Inspector General] and Commissioner Islamabad and the officers of the Interior Ministry held series of joint meetings to figure out strategy for tackling the Long Marchers.

Administration in the Federal Capital has also decided to impose Section 144 in the City on the day of the Long March and to seek Army's assistance to depute troops at foreign missions and diplomatic enclaves. Gravity of the situation can be gauged from the fact that it is probably for the first time that many helipads have been constructed in Islamabad for any emergency.

It has been learnt that the Federal Government had to decide to deploy Rangers in the City in view of the past experience of the Islamabad police in controlling violent crowds which at all has not been positive. For instance, the Centre had to call in the Punjab Police during the People's Democratic Alliance-led Long March in December last.

Defense Minister Comments

BK0907123093 Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] Lahore, July 8—Defence Minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah warned on Thursday [8 July] that the government would not let the Opposition parties take the law into their own hands and hinted that on the day of their proposed long march the maintenance of law and order would be the responsibility of the armed forces.

Talking to reporters at the Lahore airport, he gave little importance to the proposed long march, saying "short and long marches are a routine matter in politics. The months of March and April come and go".

Alleging that the Opposition wanted to thwart the mandate of the people, the Defence Minister said the government would adopt such strategy that no one could take the law and order into his own hands.

"There is a ministry of interior, but the maintenance of law and order would be the responsibility of the armed forces. We'll use all options", Syed Ghous Ali Shah said.

He said the political matters should be settled through political means and the government was determined not to allow anyone to violate law.

"Courts are the proper forum to settle disputes", said the defence minister. When asked if it was not possible for the government to take such steps as could be helpful in averting the long march, he said the courts were regarded as the last resort in such situations and deplored that some politicians had started defying the court orders. This trend should be chacked, he added.

He said it was for the courts to decide who was wrong and who was right. However, when the courts declare the action of any body as alleged then he was morally under obligation to quit. He was making reference to the President after the Supreme Court restored the National Assembly.

Asked whether the opposition would not put the government in a difficult position on the day of long march, specially because two provincial governments would be using their resources to make the programme a success, the Defence Minister said: "I don't think the federal Government would face any difficulty". In the conflict between the right and the wrong, he said, the right was bound to succeed, however, he said it was regrettable that some people forgot the power of Allah in such situations.

About the situation in Sindh, the Defence Minister said it has improved remarkably but the Army was not being withdrawn for the time being as the provincial government had yet not made satisfactory arrangements to cope with the post withdrawal situation.

He said since the army had been sent to Sindh on the request of the provincial government, it would not be recalled unless the Sindh Government asked for it.

The Defence Minister said the people of Sindh were now taking more interest in the development of the province.

Sharif Rules Out Early Elections, Stresses Stability

BK0807145893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said the real issue in Pakistan is to provide political stability in order to ensure economic progress and development. In an interview with daily MILLI GAZETE of Turkey published today, the prime minister said it is the responsibility of the political forces to seek cooperation and reconciliation among each other. He said the demand for early elections detracts from the goal of establishing the political process. The prime minister said: When our term of office expires in 1995, we will be ready for fresh elections. The demand for early elections, he said, is not endorsed by the people who only wish that political stability should be restored at the earliest. Referring to the historic decision for restoring the National Assembly and the democratically elected government, the prime minister said that the historic verdict has firmly established the supremacy of the Constitution, the rule of law, and independence of judiciary. The decision has been widely acclaimed in Pakistan and abroad.

In another interview with the Turkish daily TURKIYE, the prime minister said the process of dialogue and reconciliation with the opposition has been initiated. One important element of this dialogue, he said, is to remove those provisions of the Constitution which detract from letter and spirit of parliamentary democracy. The prime minister specifically referred to the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan. Since this is a factor for political instability, the National Assembly has constituted a committee comprising members from all political parties to review the Eighth Amendment. The prime minister said once the review is completed by the middle of this month, the parliament will then decide on this issue.

Sharif Invites Bhutto to Meeting on National Issues

BK0807144493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has invited the leader of the opposition, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, to a working dinner to discuss various issues and options. The invitation has been extended by the prime minister in his reply to the letter written by Ms. Benazir Bhutto on the 4th of this month. The prime minister noted that the leader of the opposition also shares his concern, which he has voiced frequently regarding the need for a dialogue and reconciliation among the political forces in the country.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that during the 39 days after the dissolution of the National Assembly, he kept up his struggle to uphold democracy, the rule of law, and the sanctity of the Constitution. Later, after the National Assembly and the government were restored by the Supreme Court, he repeatedly sought a dialogue among the political forces. Referring to his address to the National Assembly on 31 May, the prime minister said he had appealed to the leader of the opposition in earnest to work together for the common cause of strengthening the democratic political system. He said, he has carefully studied Ms. Benazir Bhutto's analysis of the causes of the current situation and the various options proposed by her for solving it. The prime minister said: Although I may not agree with all your perceptions and suggestions, your letter does provide a basis for a dialogue on the issues facing the nation. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said I also feel that before inviting any joint meeting between the president, the prime minister, and the leader of the opposition, it will be useful if you and I could meet to discuss various issues and options. The prime minister said if Ms. Benazir Bhutto agrees with this approach, he would like to invite her to a working dinner on any convenient date as early as possible. He said his staff will be in touch with her staff to seek confirmation of the date and time most suitable to her.

Bhutto Says Nothing Less Than Elections Acceptable

BK0907024093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, has reiterated that nothing less than the midterm elections will be acceptable to the opposition. Talking to newsmen in Lahore yesterday, she said we should go to the people to make our future safe in the current situation. She commended Jamaat-e-Eslami Amir Qazi Hussain Ahmad's efforts for reconciliation between the president and the prime minister and said even he has supported our idea of the tripartite talks.

Ministers Criticize Bhutto Call

BK0907033693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] Many federal ministers and members of the National Assembly belonging to the Islamic Democratic Alliance have said that the government and the opposition should work to strengthen the democratic system which cannot tolerate the repeated obstacles in the path of democracy. In a joint statement issued in Islamabad yesterday, they said the new elections are not a solution to the present political crisis. They said these matters could only be solved through a political process, discussions, and a dialogue. They strongly reacted to the statement given by opposition leader Benazir Bhutto in which she had asked the president to once again dissolve the National Assembly. They hoped that she will reconsider her political style and helped the country in getting rid of the political crisis. Federal Ministers who signed the statement are: Retired Lieutenant General Abdul Majid Malik, Malik Mohammad Naim Khan, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah Elahi Bux Sumroo, Jan Mohammad Yusuf, Ghulam Ahmad Billour, Yaqub Khan Nasir, Mehtab Ahmad Khan, Chaudhary Amir Hussain, Chaudhary Abdul Gafoor, and Agha Khan Hoti.

Federal Information and Broadcasting Minister Abdul Sattar Lalika has said the government is committed to promote the democratic values and the efforts to weaken the democratic system in the country will not succeed. Talking to newsmen in Lahore yesterday, he said there is no threat to democracy in the country and the present government will complete its term. He commended the sincere efforts being made by some political parties with a view to promote reconciliation and congenial atmosphere to strengthen the democratic system.

Federal Labor Minister Ejazul Haq has said the prime minister has extended his hand of cooperation to the opposition with full sincerity. Talking to newsmen in Quetta, he said the vested interests are creating an artificial political crisis. He said a large majority of the elected representatives support the Federal Government at the center and in the provinces.

Jamaat Chief Discusses 'Political Crisis' With President

BK0807155993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Jamaat-i-Islami Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad held another meeting with the president in Islamabad today. Talking to newsmen later, he said that during his meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan today, he focused his attention on a plan he has to resolve the current political crisis in the country and discussed that plan with the president. When asked how far he has succeeded in his mission, Qazi Hussain Ahmad said the situation has improved considerably and tension has eased after this mission was launched. He said he will also hold discussions with the government and the opposition. Answering another question, he said tripartite negotiations are possible, provided the government and the opposition reach a consensus on various major national issues.

Editorial Views Importance of Regional Groupings, ECO

BK0807111393 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 8 Jul 93 p 6

[Editorial: "ECO: Immense Scope for Progress"]

[Text] Speaking at the inaugural session of the two-day second expanded Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) summit in Istanbul, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif rightly said: "We are convinced that regional cooperation provides the essential framework for [words indistinct] our people." The need for economic integration among the member-countries of the

ECO had been increasingly felt in view of the fact that the new international economic order is taking the place of the old system. Rapid expansion of trade, industry and services all over the world, along with the formation of closely-knit groupings like European Economic Community, (EEC), North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), makes it imperative for developing countries to join hands for achieving accolarated economic progress. The ECO provides the answer to this problem. With Afghanistan and six Central Asian Republics (CARs) coming into the fold of the ECO, its membership has increased to ten. This expansion is not only in tune with the changing regional realities, but also gives the grouping greater weight and substance. The aspirations of 300 million people to build a solid base of cooperation in socio-economic and cultural fields have been realised. The region covering a vast area of over seven million square kilometres is quite rich in natural resources though inhabited by poor people.

The ECO's ministerial meeting in Quetta in February last however proved a watershed in its existence for it laid down a solid foundation for gradual integration of the economies of the member- states. The Quetta Plan for Action laid down specific guidelines in the fields of communications, trade, industry, energy, agriculture, tourism and human resource development. It emphasised that modern communications were a prerequisite for achieving the goals of the ECO. To that end, it indicated the member-governments' determination to allocate national resources and mobilise external resources, separately and collectively, on a priority basis. Given the vital and technical nature of this sector the Transport and Communication Committee was assigned the task of preparing a plan for the development of the transport sector. As Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif emphasised in his speech, a good beginning had already been made with the development of roads, rail and air links. He, however, called for intensifying the efforts to attain "The noble objective of an organisation." As an economic bloc, which is the second biggest after the EEC, the ECO has the potential of transforming the economic destiny of the people of the region. Hopefully, the Istanbul summit will prove another milestone in the march towards economic growth and development in the ECO region.

Sri Lanka

PRC Industrial Trade Promotion Delegation Visits

BK0707124493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] China explores the possibility of helping Sri Lanka by providing agro-mechanical equipment. A 27-member industrial trade promotion mission from the Jiangxi Province of the People's Republic of China is now visiting Sri Lanka to promote trade links between the two countries and exchange views with regard to import and export of machinery and equipment. The Chinese delegation met Minister of Trade and Commerce A.R. Mansoor at the parliamentary complex at Sri Jayewardenepura yesterday. The leader of the mission and deputy director of Machine Building Bureau of the people's government of Jiangxi Province (Saan Qi Quu) said that the team is from an agricultural area in China and their machinery and equipment are basically for farmers. They are in Colombo in connection with an exhibition of mechanical equipment which would begin in Colombo today. Minister Mansoor said that the participation of the Chinese trade delegation in agricultural and industrial growth of Sri Lanka will benefit the rural masses.